Community Centres

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COMMUNITY CENTRE

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FOREWORD

I trust this booklet, prepared by a sub-committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of the Government of Manitoba, will prove useful to our citizens who are, or may become, interested in the establishment of Community Centres in this Province.

STUART GARSON,
PREMIER.

INTRODUCTION

The following material has been prepared with the conviction that the establishment of carefully planned community centres is a necessary and worthwhile development in social progress. As is stressed in the beginning of this booklet, a Community Centre should be planned for a particular community. It is not suggested that any community should attempt or needs all the various activities that are mentioned in succeeding pages. A careful survey of the community will decide what is essential and within the ability of the district to achieve immediately and what to plan for the future. Success may not be easily or immediately attained and will require continual leadership and direction by individuals who are prepared to devote considerable time and effort to get results and will require the united support of every man, woman and child of the community to be served. Without effort and sacrifice you will not succeed but if you will persevere in spite of delays, set-backs and disappointments you will be amply rewarded by the gratitude of those to whom you have opened the gateway to a fuller and more satisfying life.

Suggestions as to plans, organization and activities should not necessarily be followed, but must be varied and applied to meet the facts of your local requirements and possibilities. The main objective is to awaken in your minds the realization that there exists today a challenge and opportunity to render a worthwhile service to the people of your community. "Where there is no vision the people perish."

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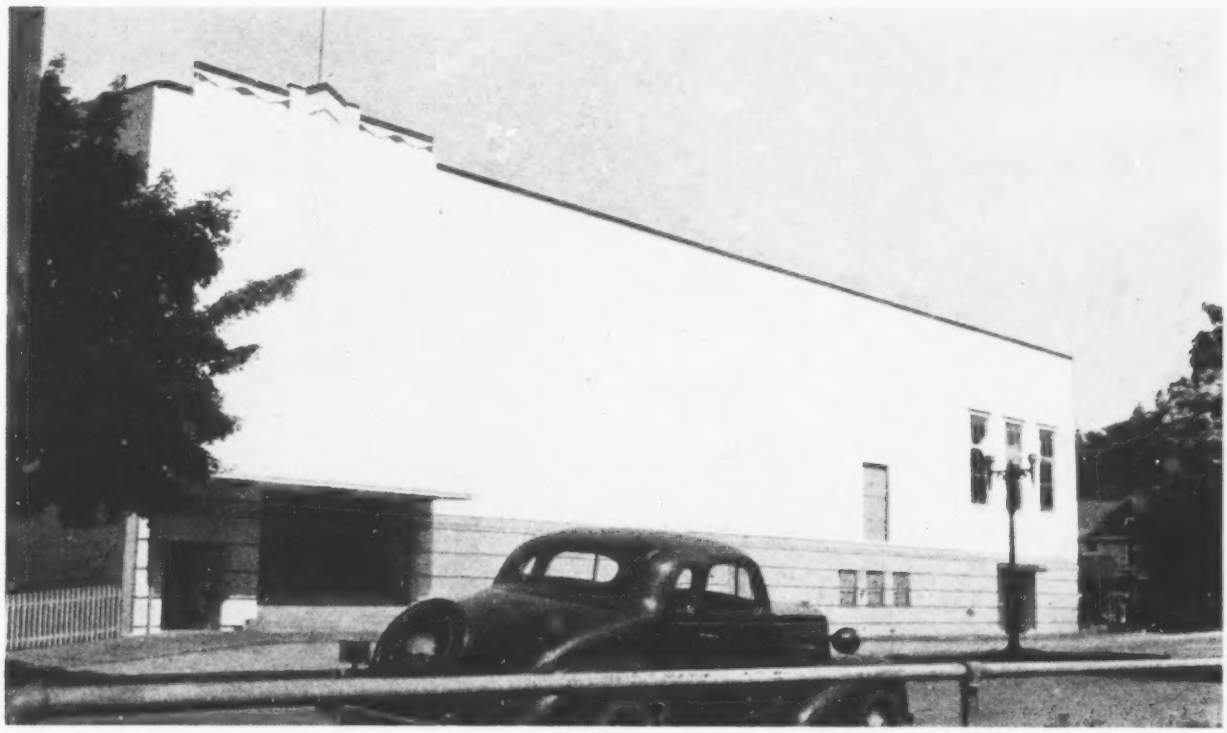
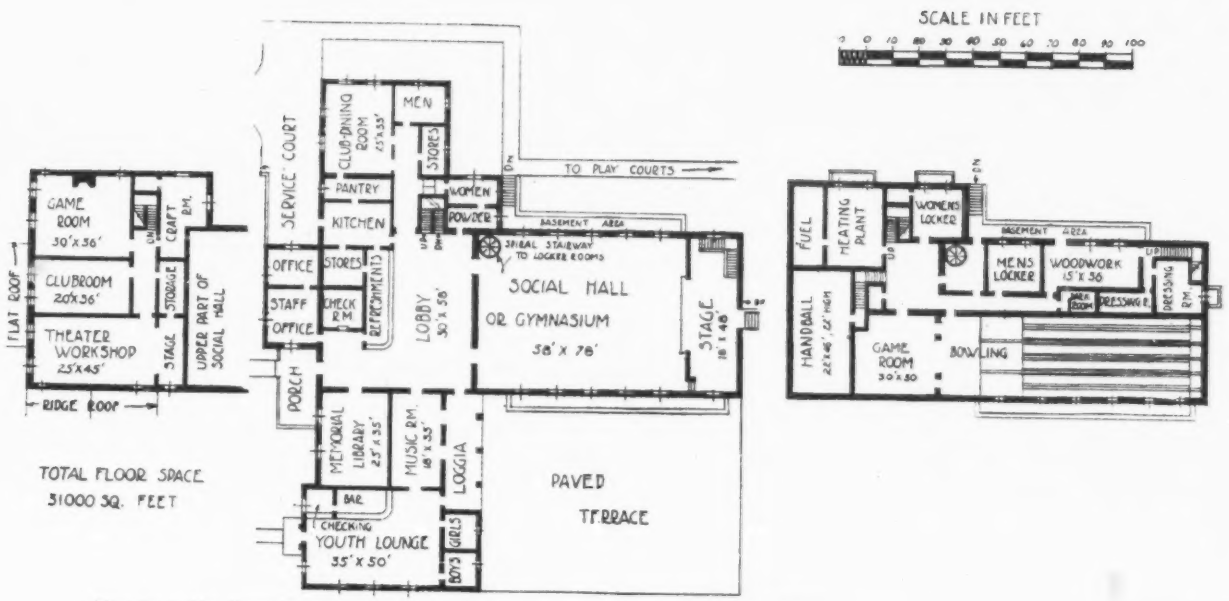


CITY OF NELSON CIVIC CENTRE

Photo by F. H. W. Chanter



Plan for a War Memorial and Community Recreation Centre. Note the Memorial Library.
Courtesy, Federal Security Agency, Washington, U.S.A.

Do You Need a Community Centre?

Growing Importance of Community

In the pioneering days on the prairies first the home and later the church and school were the only centres of family and community activity. Growth of towns and villages, improved means of communication and transportation, competitive sport, organizations for young and old and commercial recreation have all played a part in expanding that relationship.

The transition from the home to the community as the centre of activity came gradually and was not noticed for a time. There was a lack of planning and while some communities provided facilities where groups might gather, others did little or nothing with the result that people went elsewhere for recreation, social life and cultural opportunities.

Today communities are taking stock of what they have to offer to young men and women returning home from National Service in place of the comradeship experienced during war years. The last six years have taught us all that we cannot live to ourselves alone and that the community must provide opportunities for individuals to work, play, and live together with their families and neighbors.

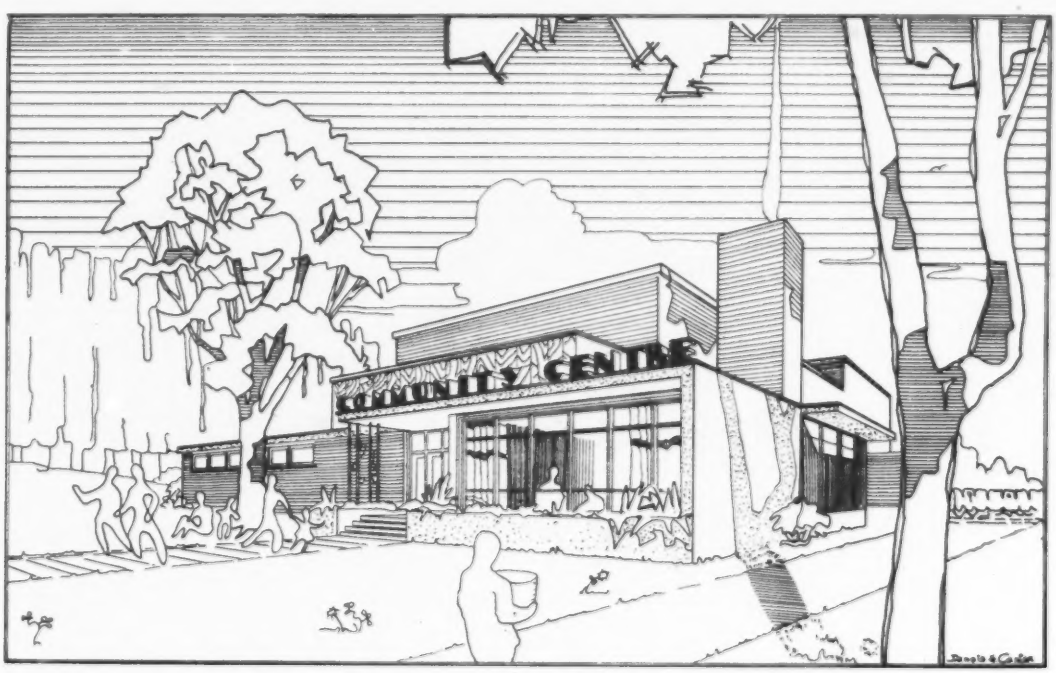
Citizens of Manitoba in these post-war days are realizing that the community should be the centre of the social, recreational and cultural life of the people and are awakening to the fact that there is needed a stronger, more satisfying community life. It should, however, always be kept in mind that the family still remains the basis of home and community life.

Throughout the province Community Centres for social or recreational purposes are being organized. Many communities are commencing with existing halls or school rooms, others are building or have already completed new centres.

Need for Community Centres

Memorials in the form of Community Centres are being planned and built throughout Manitoba today, not only to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice but also to meet the needs of the men and women of the armed forces returning to live in towns, villages and rural communities.

Well designed, equipped for social, recreational, cultural and citizenship activities, their benefits will, if properly planned and directed, extend to every man, woman, youth and child in the district. People will point with pride to their Community Centre and tell of living values in their community life gained from it.



SKETCH OF FRONT ELEVATION OF COMMUNITY CENTRE BUILDING

By Dennis H. Carter, Winnipeg

Underlying this strong movement are real community needs. The majority of people earn their living by doing monotonous repetitive work such as housework, farming, office work, teaching, selling and so forth, day in and day out, year in and year out. Farm life as well as urban life can be dull and devoid of many satisfactions required by human beings such as wholesome recreation, social relationships, cultural opportunities and planned opportunity for families or neighbors to come together to enjoy themselves.

Prior to the war, this province along with others witnessed a steady migration of young men and women and many families to urban centres. Forsaken farms and empty village homes caused havoc to small town merchants and business men generally, to church attendance, to schools, to playgrounds and to athletic groups.

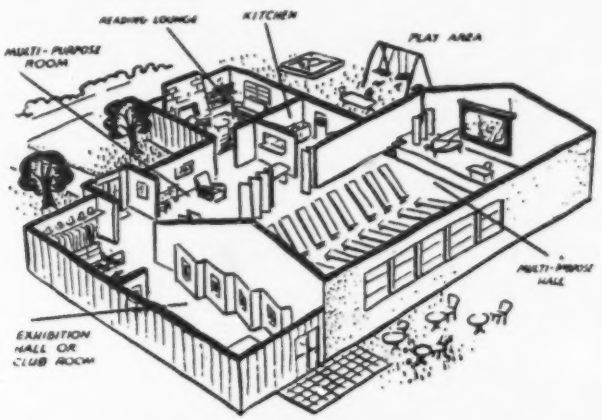
Things are different today. The housing situation in every town, village and urban centre is acute. Old houses have been made livable with repairs and new homes have been created. Farms are at a premium because of good prices and world needs for agricultural products. Business has come back to the towns and villages. But outside of an occasional movie, dance or town or church supper, many of the farms, towns and villages have nothing constructive to offer youth or adults for their leisure hours.

We lament the increase in juvenile delinquency but what constructive steps have we taken to satisfy the natural desires of these young people for companionship and to provide outlets for their energies.

However there are exciting, inspiring, challenging signs of a tremendous change in community thinking. During the war years every man, woman and child had a personal responsibility in the success of the war effort. Out of this developed a strong community spirit. Boys and girls in their Junior Red Cross, women who came singly and in groups from every corner of the district to meet together, quilting, sewing, knitting, packing parcels; men who gathered and shipped carlots of steel and scrap iron; neighbors who sold Victory Bonds and organized Red Cross Drives; men and women on citizens' committees who farewelled the boys and girls and welcomed them back—all these were evidences of strong community spirit.

Now these same people are saying "we want better communities, we want our young people to settle down and be content and happy in their home town or on the farm. We want a Community Centre where there is something satisfying for everyone in his or her leisure time. We want a community of which we can be proud."

Community Centres should be planned for the whole community and every person in it. Plans may differ in detail because communities differ in needs and types, nevertheless all will have the same objective, a place where families and neighbors can get together on an equal footing to enjoy social, recreational and cultural activities.



Cut-away view of a Community Centre for a rural area or for a city neighborhood of from 3,000-5,000 people. Based on a design by Arnold Tucker and A. J. Donahue.

General Suggestions for Establishing Centre

Always keep the future in mind when making plans.

It is not expected that all the variety of activities suggested for a Community Centre can or should be attempted at once. It may be well to commence with the establishment of a community building and a plan for general expansion and development of other community activities.

The first essential is to obtain, in a suitable location, a sufficient area of land to permit eventual centralization of all community activities—even those already in existence, and to plan for expansion. This is of utmost importance if the Community Centre is to serve adequately as a centre for the social, recreational, educational and cultural activities of the whole community.

The next essential is that any buildings proposed should be planned to allow future extension without sacrificing architectural beauty or design. Buildings should also be arranged for multiple uses. Qualified technical advice and direction should be obtained so that buildings may be planned in a practical and efficient manner and may be made architecturally pleasing to the eye. In some cases existing buildings can be renovated and incorporated into the general scheme. The extra money spent for qualified technical assistance and advice in the design of buildings and the planning of a Community Centre will be many times repaid in the beauty and efficency obtained and in the satisfaction and pride which the people of the community will have in their Community Centre and its activities.

It is not necessary to have an elaborate organization to commence the planning of a Community Centre in a town, village or community. Ascertain what activities are of interest to the community and survey the materials and resources available. Most communities have some facilities available and while these may not all be under one roof, they may not be far apart. First put down on paper a list of buildings and other facilities you now have, then assess the utility of these in the light of the program being planned. You may need to repair what you have or you may require to construct something new. Additional facilities may be acquired by adapting something which was formerly used for another purpose. Vacant buildings offer two possibilities — they can be remodelled or torn down and the materials used to build or repair.

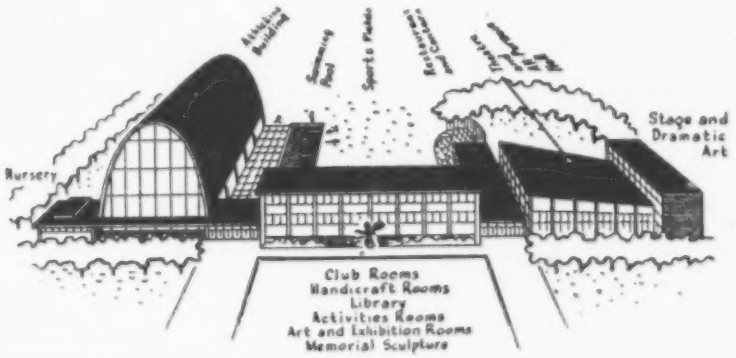
The needs of each community will be different. Preliminary planning will show the relation of each development to the whole project. For example a community may require a new hall—the main auditorium might be constructed the first year, the next year club rooms and committee rooms might be added and at some later date an additional wing with rooms for a library and crafts. Proper placing of the first unit is essential to allow for the additions.

Make a survey of the leadership resources of your community. Many people are capable of giving leadership but have not had the opportunity or perhaps the training. People with hobbies can pass their knowledge on to others. There must be equipment to work with. Requirements for sports are well known, but for study groups, craft groups and for certain age groups not so much is known and materials will take a longer time to assemble. Estimates of cost should be submitted to assure proper balance of funds to be spent.

"Each Community Centre should be tailored especially for a particular community. To do this, the designer (or the committee) must analyze the community—its needs, habits, desires—and then seek to provide for these in a carefully integrated, well organized building or group of buildings. It has been stated very pointedly that a Community Centre is not a gymnasium, a fine stage, a swimming pool or a glorified orchestra pit. To create a real community there must be an aggregation of people not of institutions or buildings. We need to ascertain the existing resources of the neighborhood in question, both human and material, the size of that community, its life pattern and interests, its climate and geography, the history of its environment, and, above all, what the people themselves want. This latter item will vary greatly in different parts of the country.

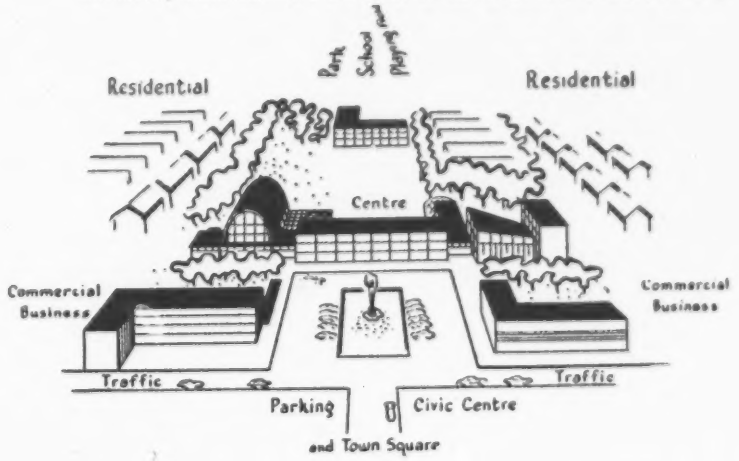
Only by planning for this human element, its particular desires and habits, can a Community Centre be created which will function efficiently and fulfil its every need. To attempt to superimpose what we think a community ought to need in its Community Centre will never achieve the perfect solution.

The Community Centre, to justify its name, must make available space, equipment and accommodation, and provide the necessary leadership of highly skilled and thoroughly trained councillors to meet the needs of people of all ages and of both sexes. Its function is never static; every allowance must be made for growth, for change, for adaptability and multiple use of areas for different purposes to ensure maximum efficiency and flexibility." (Lionel Scott, in the February, 1945, issue of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Journal.)



ABOVE: A Community Centre, based on a design by Fred Lasserre, with accommodation for practically every cultural and recreational need in a large community. Bold in conception and scope by present day standards in Canada, such a Centre could nevertheless be built up by any large community willing to undertake the necessary spade work through a Community Council.

BELOW: The same Community Centre shown in its sensible relationship to other community facilities. This is a part of the wider job of city planning.



Preliminary Organization

Before a centre is organized someone will have raised the question "What about a Community Centre for our district?" A provisional committee consisting perhaps of a school teacher, the minister, a representative of the Board of Trade, the Service Clubs, the Women's Institute and farmers' organizations will get together to plan for a general public meeting to be called later.

The general meeting should be well advertised. Teachers might be asked to announce it in school; ministers could announce it from their pulpits. Every family would receive an invitation to attend. People living in remote areas would be visited and informed of the project. Time is well spent in leaving no group or individual uninformed, so that no sources of ideas and co-operation will be overlooked.

At the general meeting the provisional committee or a qualified person will explain what a Community Centre is and some of the things it might accomplish in the community. They will answer questions. They will record ideas from the people.

At this meeting a preliminary organization committee should be formed. All organizations in the community should have representation including members at large. Officers should include a chairman, a secretary and a business manager who could also be treasurer.

Several sub-committees may be needed: finance, program, leadership, membership and publicity are some of them.

The essential thing is to enlist the interest and support of every man, woman and child in the community and to keep them informed on the progress being made in organizing the Community Centre. Your local newspaper is a splendid medium for spreading the story of your actions and decisions. Take the editor into your confidence fully and retain his co-operation.

Democracy is efficient only if it is efficient in the village, school district or community. If a community centre is to be organized properly and be a permanent success this principle is one that should ever be kept in mind. Before you start your project be reasonably sure a majority of the citizens realize the need for a Community Centre, appreciate its potentialities for good in the community and are prepared to give it the support necessary to insure success.

WHAT ABOUT A COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR OUR DISTRICT?

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FUTURE STARS

AIRCRAFT MODELING

Permanent Organization

If a Community Centre is to succeed the effort, enthusiasm and sacrifice of the whole community to be served must be enlisted and retained. Control of the centre by any sectional group or organization should not be permitted. The incentive and necessary effort must come from all the citizens of the community not from outside agencies.

What type of organization is best suited to carry through such a project to completion and provide for future management and expansion?

Experience has taught us it is not advisable to have the project undertaken by any unincorporated organization nor to have any property belonging to the centre held in the name of trustees.

Types of Organization

There are at least four types of incorporated organizations:

1. A joint stock company with share capital incorporated under Part II of "The Companies Act." The fees payable to the Provincial Secretary for such a charter if the capital does not exceed $20,000.00 are approximately $55.00, and if the capital does not exceed $100,000.00 approximately $135.00, and if the capital does not exceed $300,000.00 approximately $225.00, together with an annual filing fee of $2.00 where capital does not exceed $100,000.00 and of $5.00 where capital does not exceed $300,000.00.

2. A non-profit corporation without capital stock incorporated under Part V of "The Companies Act." The fee for such a charter is approximately $90.00 together with an annual filing fee of $2.00.

3. A co-operative organization with or without capital stock incorporated under Part VII of "The Companies Act." The fees for such a charter if the capital does not exceed $25,000.00 are approximately $15.00 and if the capital does not exceed $100,000.00 approximately $35.00 and if the capital does not exceed $300,000.00 approximately $100.00. If there is no capital the fees are approximately $15.00. The annual filing fees are one half the amount required for joint stock companies under Part II.

4. The municipal corporation in which the Community Centre is located:—Your own local government.

Experience has also shown, where similar projects were organized as joint stock or membership corporations, that gradually the shareholders or members either move away from the community or die, interests in the project lags, and eventually the corporation either has to be re-organized or taken over by the municipality.

Powers of Municipality

It is therefore suggested that the municipality is the logical and in the long run the most satisfactory continuing corporate body to organize and manage a Community Centre, but not necessarily to plan and supervise programmes.

The municipal corporation is a democratic organization, its council is elected by and represents all the people of the municipality, it must annually give an accounting of its stewardship, cannot be wound up or dissolved like a commercial institution, and whether conditions are good or bad, must continue within its financial ability to provide services for its people.

Every municipality either alone or in conjunction with another municipality has jurisdiction to acquire land and erect, equip and maintain buildings as a Community Centre. (Section 425A of "The Municipal Act".)

A Community Centre means any land improved or buildings erected and equipped to provide social, recreational, cultural or adult educational facilities for the public use of the community and without restricting the generality of the foregoing may in the discretion of the council of the municipality include a municipal office, community auditorium, skating or curling rink, rest room, memorial, library, art gallery, museum, gymnasium, bowling alley, swimming pool, play ground, athletic field, or park and equipment for recreation, entertainment, exhibition of moving pictures and the providing of meals or refreshments. [Section 425A (2)].

If necessary the municipality for any of these purposes can expropriate land, appropriate existing

funds, borrow money on the credit of the whole municipality and levy taxes on the whole or a portion of the municipality.

A municipality might provide the money required in its current budget by a general rate over the whole municipality (Section 621 of "The Municipal Act") or partly by a general rate and partly by a special rate not exceeding ten mills over any part of the municipality upon receiving a petition from two-thirds of the resident owners of land to be affected by the special rate (Section 626).

If funds of the municipality in any reserve established under section 629 are to be used for this purpose the approval of the Municipal Commissioner for the use of such reserve funds must be obtained.

If the municipality contracts a debt by borrowing money not repayable within the year in which the debt is contracted or levies a rate over a number of years the bylaw of the municipality must be submitted to the ratepayers of the municipality (section 522) or that part of the municipality upon which the levies are to be made (section 556), and must receive the assent of at least three-fifths of the ratepayers actually voting thereon and in addition be approved by The Municipal and Public Utility Board (section 524).

The municipality may also receive moneys donated to it in trust for the purpose of assisting in establishing a Community Centre [section 425A (5)] or make grants for this purpose to an incorporated organization or an adjoining municipality.

If, as suggested, the Community Centre is organized by the municipality, the ultimate control and responsibility rests in the hands of the council of the municipality. It is possible, however, that the members of the council may not have the time necessary to devote to the details of management to make the undertaking a success. Where this is the case the council will appoint a management committee composed of some members of council and of representative citizens who have the interest, ability and time necessary to make the undertaking a success. [See section 425 (7)]. It may also be advisable in some of the larger centres to employ a full time manager for the centre [see section 425 (8)].

It may be well to draw attention to the fact that any public building to be erected for the Community Centre must comply with the requirements of "The Public Buildings Act."

It should also be pointed out that any appeals by organizations for voluntary contributions for war memorials or Community Centres should be registered under "The War Charities Act," and application made to the Department of National War Services, Ottawa, for authority to make the canvass. This does not apply to funds obtained by the municipality through taxation.

Where individuals have made voluntary contributions for such a purpose it might be suggested to them that they claim exemption for a charitable bequest under "The Income Tax Act."

A GOOD TIME IN THE TEEN CANTEEN

The Family and the Community Centre

Keeping in mind that the family is the basis of community life it is necessary to plan a program for various age groups.

While there is wide variation in the type of projects which could be planned for a Community Centre, it might be helpful to group them under five headings, namely:

1. Physical—individual, group and team exercises and sports.
2. Creative—music, dramatics and handicrafts.
3. Social—hikes, dances, concerts, funfairs, group games, etc.
4. Educational—discussion groups, forums, study clubs, etc.
5. Leadership—training courses, conferences, etc.

Such a program would allow individuals to develop and maintain a physically fit body, to express themselves through arts and crafts, to participate in an educational program, to mingle with the community socially and to develop leadership and initiative through new experiences.

District, regional and provincial competition in sports, drama and musical festivals would influence the breakdown into groups since there would be rules pertaining to each one. Eventually regional committees would plan on a basis which would allow uniform grouping.

Some projects lend themselves to all age groups participating at the same time — craft work in particular.

The very young and the very old will need special consideration. Elderly people who do not feel they can take an active part, enjoy watching and chatting with their contemporaries. Babies must be taken along or the mother remains at home. Built-in seats around the sides of the room can be planned to provide a satisfactory bed and the baby can sleep in comfort while the mother enjoys her meeting.

Special attention should be given to the juvenile age group; good leadership is important and proper chairs and tables should be provided to enable them to work in comfort and enjoy their activities while other members of the family are participating in theirs.

The home gives the child the feeling of belonging —a security provided by the family to a very large extent. The community must provide similar opportunities for the child, its future adult, to develop pride in the community and a sense of belonging through sharing in community activities.

"IT'S A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING"

SUGGESTED TYPICAL SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR A COMMUNITY CENTRE AUDITORIUM AND STAGE DESIGNED FOR AN AUDIENCE OF 400

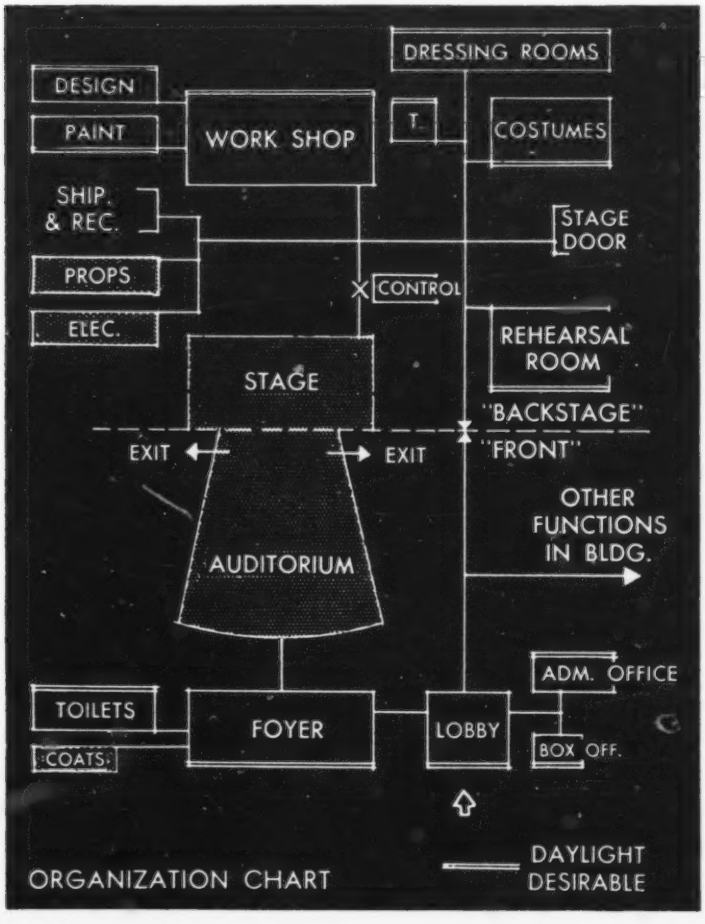
Vestibule	160 sq. ft.
Tickets and office	100 sq. ft.
Lobby and gallery	800 sq. ft.
Coats	240 sq. ft.
Lavatories	200 sq. ft.
Auditorium	3200 sq. ft.
Projection and spot booth	100 sq. ft.
Stage	1300 sq. ft.
Dressing rooms (2 or more)	300 sq. ft.
Stage lavatories	50 sq. ft.
Rehearsal room	500 sq. ft.
Workshop (scenery)	500 sq. ft.
Storage (scenery)	as much as possible
Workshop and storage (costumes)	400 sq. ft.

Note—Although these are suggested minima for an auditorium seating 400, special circumstances may indicate the cutting down or elimination of some of the items.

Diagrams and notes through courtesy of Professor John A. Russell, R.A.I.C., C.D.A., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

SUGGESTED LAYOUT FOR THE AUDITORIUM IN A COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Entrance vestibule.
2. Ticket office.
3. Manager's office.
4. Lobby.
5. Coats.
6. Lavatories.
7. Lounge, club room, gallery, etc.
8. Projection booth.
9. Passage to rest of centre.
10. Auditorium.
11. Committee room, dining room.
12. Kitchen.
13. Storage.
14. Service entrance.
15. Exits.
16. Stage lighting control.
17. Forestage.
18. Acting area of stage.
19. Work and storage area on stage.
20. Storage area for properties and scenery.
21. Pin rail.
22. Dressing rooms (committee rooms).
23. Rehearsal room.
24. Costume workroom and storage.
25. Scenery work shop.



A BLUE PRINT FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF YOUR COMMUNITY THEATRE PLAN

THE COMMUNITY THEATRE usually contains 300 to 1000 seats and serves amateurs, semi-professionals, and visiting professional groups. Most of the scenery and costumes are designed and made at the theatre and require a special type of workshop. Because of its varied use, and the rather indeterminate responsibility of its management, its planning should be as simple and as foolproof as possible.

FRONT, or public areas, and BACKSTAGE, or work areas, constitute the two major elements. Spectators should find everything necessary for their needs accessible from the foyer once they have presented tickets. Included are toilets, coatrooms, drinking fountain, lounges and smoking areas. The lobby should provide waiting space and circulation to other areas in the building. The manager's office is convenient if adjacent to the box office and accessible from the lobby.

In the work group, control of the stage entrance will avoid interference from unauthorized persons and will facilitate accounting of players, properties and scenery. Rehearsal rooms are part of the work area and should be near other work elements. Movement of heavy furniture and other properties demands close relation between work spaces and stage proper. Dressing rooms may be more remote but within supervisory distance.

(This chart and analysis of the organization of the community theatre areas is based largely upon a similar one in The Architectural Record, July, 1938.)

Community Centre Activities and Projects

Municipal Administrative Buildings

In planning a Community Centre it may be advisable to suggest that where possible the municipal office, if there is one in the locality, might be located near to or form a part of the Community Centre. This is especially true where the Community Centre is established by or under the control of the municipal council. Such an arrangement could be a distinct convenience and might lessen the cost of maintenance.

The Auditorium

In most cases the heart of the Community Centre will be the auditorium. Used for all large community gatherings, the auditorium should be spacious enough to seat the maximum crowd expected at any one time to such events as concerts, plays, musical or dramatic festivals, and public meetings. To secure good ventilation and acoustics the ceiling should be of good height, and there should be no obstructing pillars. Hard wood floors and moveable seats make the auditorium convertible to a gymnasium. There should be some provision, perhaps a trap-door in the auditorium floor, or an opening under the stage, for facilitating the removal of chairs from the auditorium to a storage space. If the floors are suitably marked, basketball, badminton and physical fitness classes may be enjoyed. In this case provision must be made for protecting windows and electric lights, and fixtures provided for erecting basketball baskets and badminton nets, etc.

The auditorium is also the centre of all kinds of social activities. The auditorium should be convertible for dancing and for the serving of meals for community groups. This requires kitchen facilities conveniently placed and adequately equipped. Collapsible tables should be provided that can be put up and removed quickly and easily. The auditorium might also provide for a canteen where sandwiches, snacks and soft drinks could be served.

Dramatic groups will require that the stage have proper exits and entrances, lighting equipment and curtains that do not stick half way at a dramatic climax. Backstage dressing rooms with lockers and even showers will all help to make dramatics exciting. Overhead pulleys will make scenery shifts smooth and efficient. Above all, dramatic groups and choirs will insist that the stage be large enough to avoid crowding.

A high degree of flexibility is most desirable to ensure easy and rapid changes. Far too often, a hall is planned with only one or two purposes in mind, assuming that other activities can be acommodated in some way or other. This usually results in many hours of labor being involved in such changes, as well as restricted accommodation of certain activities. Foresight in planning will avoid such difficulties.

Another highly important characteristic of the plan should be audience comfort and safety. The former involves not merely comfortable seats arranged with a view to easy access and egress, but also with emphasis upon good sight and good audition from every seat in the house. Comfortable surroundings, pleasing to look at, well lighted, efficiently heated and adequately ventilated will add to the effectiveness of the hall as a real Community Centre. In this province the question of efficient and economical heating of public buildings is a very important consideration. The grouping of various community buildings together can in some cases reduce heating costs.

Further it should be emphasized that limitation of budget should not result in cutting or curtailing any part of the ultimate plan. Rather, the suggestion should be urged that the Community Centre be built in two or three different stages; perhaps, the auditorium and stage first, the library and adult education features second, the recreation features (both indoor and outdoor) third, and further amplification of these provisions, fourth. By means of such a long-term construction program, an efficiently functioning Community Centre can be assured, with ample provision for all the activities, both recreational and creative, which characterize a healthy communal life. Experience will be gained in the process.

Motion Pictures

Probably no single attraction offered by the Community Centre will have more widespread appeal than motion pictures. Projection equipment in 16 millimetre size is adequate, and is available at reasonable cost. Such equipment provides absolutely no fire hazard, the film used being non-inflammable. No projection booth is necessary. The projector can be mounted on a stand which can be made moveable by putting it on castors or small wheels. This will allow it to be used in the auditorium, library, or other rooms in the building. It can be used for educational and entertainment purposes. Due to rapid advance in recent years it is now possible to obtain 16 millimetre film in greater variety than in 35 millimetre. This ranges from feature length entertainment to every conceivable variety of educational and instructional film. Facilities which are available at the National Film Board or other film libraries should be utilized.

Thirty-five millimetre equipment is much more expensive. Its cost puts it beyond the reach of some Community Centres, to say nothing of the expense involved in building a fireproof projection booth, provision for which would have to be made before the hall is built. If however the Centre can afford this equipment by all means provide it.

Music

The Community Centre will be the home of such activities as music appreciation classes, choral singing groups, glee clubs, opera groups, the high school band or orchestra, novelty bands such as the kindergarten percussion band and bugle bands connected with the cadets. Recitals and concerts could be regular events. It will probably be necessary to set up a schedule to avoid conflicting engagements for space in the auditorium.

District musical festivals provide competition between towns, the winners taking part in provincial and dominion festivals.

Not all musical activities require the large auditorium. Smaller rooms will be used by smaller groups. If the library is equipped with gramaphone and radio, regular listening groups can be encouraged. If this combined use of the library is planned, times will have to be scheduled—a time for music and a time for silence. A separate room for musical activities is highly desirable.

It may be feasible to organize a local gramophone record society which could hold periodical meetings and pool their resources for concerts, or loan their records to members or other groups.

WE'RE ON THE AIR!

REHEARSAL

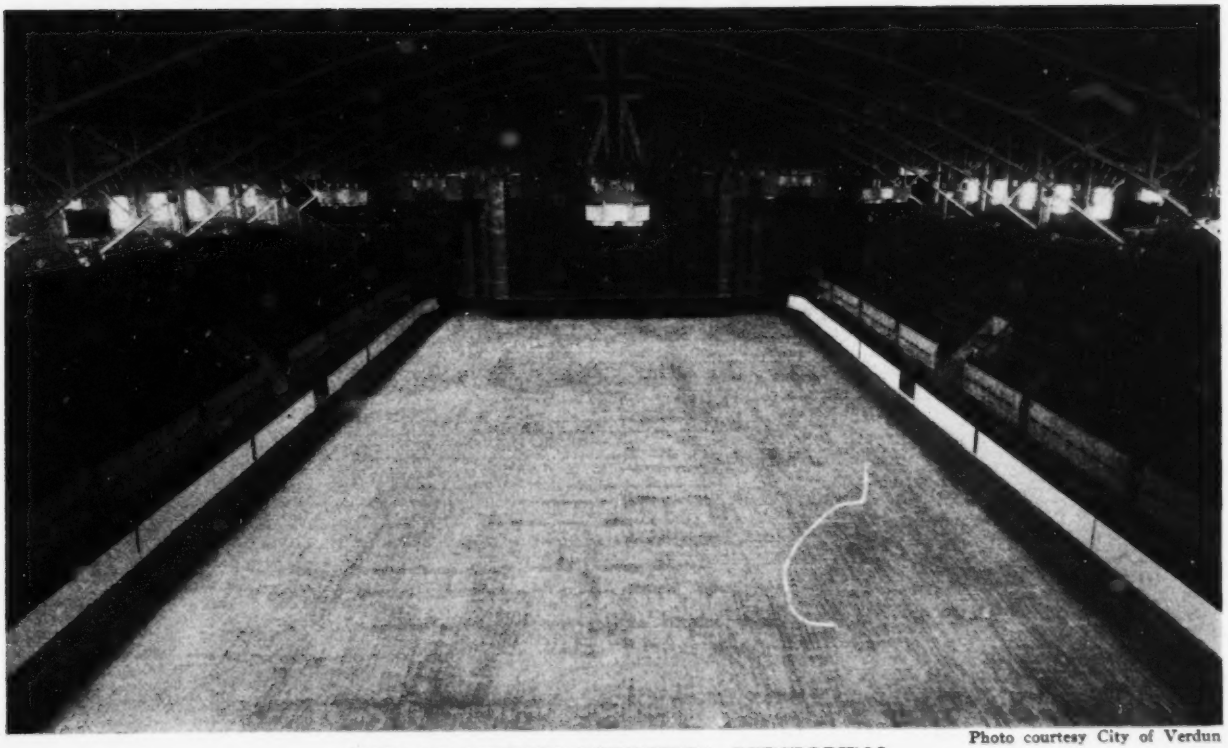
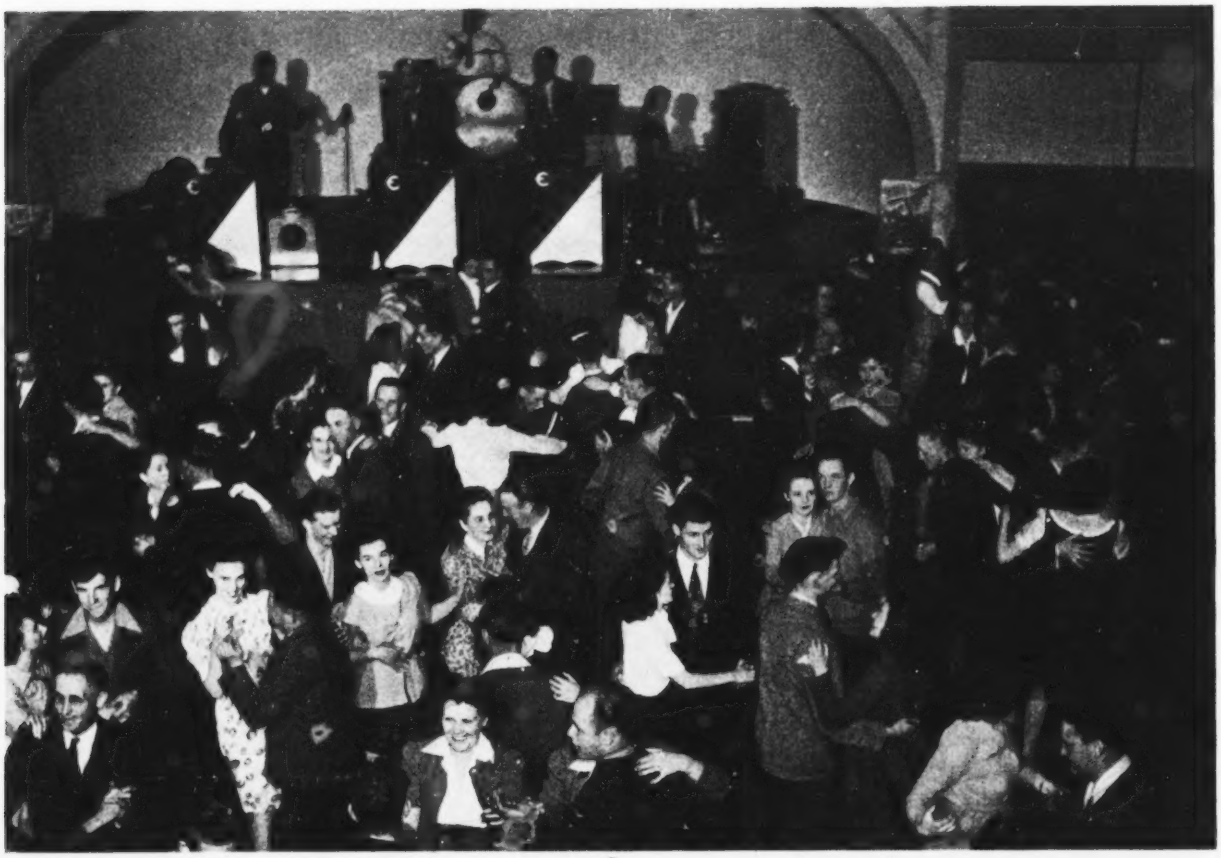


Photo courtesy City of Verdun

CITY OF VERDUN MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY



SATURDAY NIGHT OR ANY NIGHT

A PLAYFUL BALLET

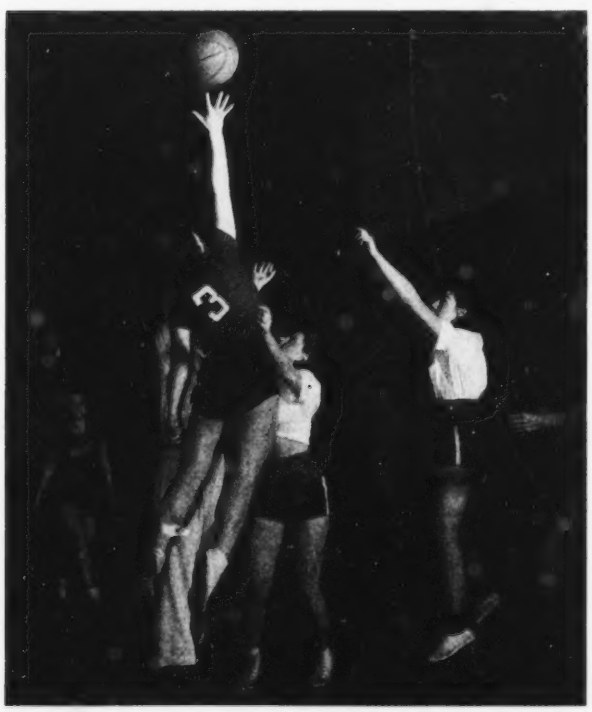
Dancing

The auditorium will be the centre of all kinds of dancing activities. In addition to regular weekly modern dances, there will be square dances and old time dances well known and loved by the older people.

Folk dances or tap dancing taught in the school can be performed for the public in the auditorium. Different racial groups might be interested in presenting pageants depicting their particular cultural background and, of course, folk dances will be a highlight of any such evening.

Classes in folk dances help to break down antagonisms between groups of different cultural backgrounds. With such activities going on musical talents are discovered and the community orchestra or band has the opportunity to perform.

In most countries the ballet has now become part of the regular entertainment of the people and there is no reason at all why Manitoba should not also have its ballet productions with smaller units of the larger companies travelling through the rural communities—provided there are facilities for such performances. With an innate love of dancing in so many Canadians of European descent, success is ensured for any venture which will bring the colour and life of dancing to those in the rural communities.



THE GAME IS ON!

CURTAIN GOING UP

Drama

Dramatic groups, hard hit by the absence of young people during the war years, are coming to life again. District and Provincial Drama Festivals exist and a festival for Western Canada has been planned. Before long a Dominion Drama Festival will again be the climax of each year's dramatic activity.

Dramatic work will extend rapidly as Community Centres provide more and better resources. Activities will range from school and Sunday school concerts to full length plays, from skits to minstrel shows.

Use of the auditorium will certainly have to be time-tabled once dramatic activity hits its stride. Librarians will once more be harassed by requests for "a one-act twenty-minute comedy for four male and three female characters—one without royalty fees, please."

For technical details of how an auditorium and stage should be constructed and equipped to serve these many dramatic interests, read Professor John A. Russell's brief on "Minimum Requirements for Auditorium and Stages in Community Centre Buildings."

Photo courtesy Montreal Children's Library

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ROOM

TRAVELLING LIBRARY

IN A WORLD OF HIS OWN

Library

A Community Centre, with a program attractive to all ages and all types of cultural and recreational interests, is the logical location of a balanced collection of books, pamphlets and periodicals.

The experiments and experiences of Great Britain and on this continent in providing library service to similar types of rural society illustrate the predominance of regional library units. Its adaptability and flexibility in providing the maximum service to the greatest number within a geographic region assures the economic and social use of the Community Centre.

Where a community possesses a larger population then the modern library is the centre for the loan of books, films, pictures, art, musical and voice recordings, and an auditorium to meet the consequent needs of users of the library and its resources.

When a rural region has a number of comparatively similar types of communities with adjacent farm population, then the co-operative and co-ordinated rural Community Centre is the answer to the need for book service with the necessary equipment. A Community Centre serves either as the centre for a region, or as a local deposit point for circulation from the regional centre. The decision is made upon geographic and economic factors—i.e. population distribution, transportation facilities and buildings. This is one of the most important decisions to be made. Planning in advance is essential.

The centre of a regional library area requires adequate facilities, not only for its own community needs, but additional space for its regional service—the reserve book supply, and for the professionally trained administrative staff. The deposit points within the region may be a Community Centre, or any other adequate place for circulation of books and related types of visual and sound material. Adaptation is unlimited in its scope.

A library in a rural Community Centre requires open shelving sufficient to maintain a book stock equal to three books for each person in the area served (smaller libraries need more books per capita than larger—the range is from three and one half to two per capita). It should have a reading room divided off from the shelving. There should be a children's section. The staff should be provided with an office and working room for preparing books for use and for their repair. The floor space allocated depends upon the size of the community and whether it serves only itself or is a regional centre.

The library is the centre of any community. Books are the means by which people become aware of ideas and thoughts of other people—within their own group or of the world. Justice and liberty, tolerance and understanding of nature and of human nature, imagination, skills of the hands, government, law and order, all come only through the printed page, and the newer mediums of visual communications. To read well is to live wisely and happily.

Creative Writing

Another activity that might appeal to certain members of the community would be the organization of a group interested in studying the art of writing. There are four branches of this subject:

1. Journalism—newspaper and magazine writing.
2. Novels and short story writing.
3. Writing for the stage.
4. Writing for the radio.

There will be an increasing demand for original Canadian dramas and there already exists a demand for radio plays. The editor of the local paper might lend a hand in this work and in developing local talent.

SLATIVE LIBRARY

Art Appreciation

A Community Centre provides a splendid opportunity to democratize art. Art galleries are few and most people never have the opportunity to visit them. It therefore becomes necessary to take art to the people. Drawing is one of the basic activities of the human race. As children we all draw so why should we not all be interested in the active participation in art.

Provision should be made in the Community Centre for an art room—studio or work room. Such a room will require special features and equipment unsuited to other uses. Physical requirements would run to northern exposure, good lighting, access to water, model stand, easels, solid tables and much cupboard space the tops of which, or the tops of library shelves in the library, might be used for display of hobbies, handicrafts, sculpture or for the display of pictures and photographs.

The work room should always be available to the individual with an hour or two of leisure, as well as the fixed times for classes in sketching, painting, etc., for adults and children. It should be large enough for the scenery-painting essential to good drama. It should have facilities for sculpture, clay modelling and other arts and crafts, possibly all the handicrafts.

If possible it would be desirable to provide space in the Community Centre for the display of travelling exhibitions or exhibitions by art societies and galleries, provincial or national.

Picture hire is being practiced in several parts of the country with success. Paintings are loaned to the centre by the artists for renting out to individuals who could not otherwise afford to hang originals on their walls. This is a great aid in art appreciation.

To encourage appreciation of art as well as to help furnish the centre it might be possible to procure silk processed prints from the National Gallery of Canada or coleotype prints from the Medici Society, the Metropolitan Museum of Arts, New York or the Boston or Chicago Art Gallery. Excellent reproductions can be obtained in this way at very low prices and could be mounted and framed by local workmen.

Provision might also be made for the display of the work of local camera clubs or sketch clubs. A dark room would be very useful for the camera club. Exhibits might be brought in periodically from other centres. An effective way of exhibiting photographs or sketches is by means of glass fronted runway tracks. These are easily constructed out of two strips of picture moulding mounted in the wall with plates of window glass slipped in between the moulding.

Handicrafts

Because of the Canadians with many national cultures represented in Manitoba there are almost unlimited possibilities in a handicrafts program for a Community Centre. Such a program would include lectures, radio talks, published articles, demonstrations and exhibitions.

If adequately organized and properly directed these activities will have economic, educational, social, cultural, recreational and even therapeutic value for the people of your community.

While knitting, because of the tremendous job Canadian women carried out during the war, has been taken out of the recreation class, there will be found among the following activities something to interest all age groups of both sexes:

- Needlecraft
- Spinning
- Weaving
- Rug making
- Lamp shades
- Leather tooling
- Pottery making
- Wood working
- Basketry
- Ivory carving
- Wood carving
- Whittling
- Puppet and toy making
- Plastic work
- Metal work
- Bookbinding
- Lino-print making
- Wood-block printing
- Model building—aeroplanes, trains, boats, etc.
- Indian crafts

Museum

The establishment of a museum and historical society in the community will be the means of preserving for future generations many items of historical value and interest which will otherwise be lost for all time.

The formation of an historical society in addition to its educational features will provide a means of recording the early history of the locality. Community traditions of permanent value are thereby created.

Teen Canteens

Our teen age youngsters of both sexes are crying out for the opportunity and place, under the supervision of a youth council or other control, to dance, sing and have a bite to eat. Our homes in many cases are not large enough to meet this need, and many communities have no organization that will undertake to sponsor such a program. The Community Centre is the place and has the organization to meet this pressing need of our teen-agers. A well balanced program is a constructive approach to the problem of juvenile delinquency.

Game Room or Rumpus Room

Corn roasts, wiener roasts, sleigh rides, snowshoe tramps, skiing and toboggan parties and just plain "hikes" will wind up at the Community Centre. In the basement room should be provided to take care of such parties.

At little or no expense a variety of games can be assembled to equip a game room. Card games, checkers, chess, darts, shuffleboard, ping pong and billiard tables will be in continuous use. A variety of equipment at small cost will provide fun for all. To complete the game room or rumpus room a fireplace, comfortable lounges, a piano and plenty of song sheets will ensure that every evening ends on a note of harmony.

Gymnasium

A gymnasium, either as part of or separate from the auditorium, besides providing the means and equipment for taking full advantage of a physical fitness program can provide, if properly planned, for various types of recreation such as badminton, basketball, volleyball, indoor tennis, boxing, tumbling, wrestling, fencing, handball, squash, bowling and roller skating. Bowling alleys may be installed in the basement of the gymnasium or auditorium with ceiling and walls well insulated to reduce noise. Bowling alleys can also be installed in the curling or skating rink.

Curling Rink and Skating Rink

Most centres plan one building to house both activities. Curling has long been the favorite winter sport of Manitoba communities. The youngsters give the old-timers keen competition. Women monopolize the afternoons, give way to the school crowd at four o'clock, and all groups have their share of fun in the evening.

In addition to the thrills of hockey, the skating rink is the training ground for many future champions in the arts of speed and fancy skating. These skills lead towards an annual ice carnival which also develops skill and ingenuity in inventing costumes, both humorous and artistic.

Athletic Field and Track

Associated with the Community Centre, if not physically a part of it, should be the sports ground with its athletic field for baseball, softball, football, lacrosse, rugby, cricket, its courts for basketball, badminton, handball, volley ball, squash, tennis and archery. Space should be set aside for running track, pole vaulting, javelin, hammer and discus throwing and shot putting, jump pits and horseshoe pitch. For younger children there will be swings, sandboxes and teeter-totters. (For layout of athletic fields, courts and pitches see chart in appendix III.)

Bowling Green and Golf Course

If feasible a bowling and croquet green will provide a great deal of recreation in the summer months.

It would be ideal if the local golf course could be located in proximity to the Community Centre.

Swimming Pool

Where a good supply of water is available and budget permits a swiming pool will be a real attraction for every age group. Speed swimming and fancy diving competitions, life saving classes, water polo are a few of the many forms of recreation possible. Showers are essential equipment. If the pool is indoors, it will be in demand especially after every basketball game or gymnasium class. If outdoors, people will travel miles on a hot day to cool off and "fresh up."

Park

A park with shrubs and gardens would provide an ideal setting for the Community Centre.

Relation of Community Centre to Other Community Organizations

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Every organized group in your locality should take an active part in the establishment of the Community Centre, assist in its operation and development and take full advantage of the facilities it provides.

The churches, schools, service clubs, fraternal organizations, the Board of Trade, Legion, Red Cross, Agricultural Society, Women's Institute; co-operatives, credit unions, home and school and adult education association, the Scouts, Guides, Cadets and athletic organizations and any other group, should enlist the support of all their members for this community project, support it and actively participate in its activities. All these organizations can provide financial assistance, take part in local campaigns to raise funds and furnish leadership for individuals participating in the cultural, social, recreational and citizenship activities of the Centre.

The Community Centre on the other hand can offer these organizations attractive surroundings for holding their business meetings and social gatherings. The library, motion picture and radio equipment and all other facilities of the Centre will be available to all groups. The auditorium or rink can be used for entertainments or exhibitions, and for public meetings at which representatives of government, university or colleges or other agencies can discuss problems of importance to the community.

Most important of all the Community Centre will draw together the multiplicity of groups and organizations of the community in a united and co-ordinated effort to improve the community and provide the facilities for a more diversified social, cultural and recreational life.

If there are many active organizations in your district, it will be advisable to create a community council, consisting of a representative of each organization, to act as a clearing house for suggestions as to community centre activities, and maintain a schedule so that the facilities of the Community Centre may be equitably available to all. The provision of adequate office space and filing cabinet equipment in the Centre for the records of each organization will be useful.

ADULT EDUCATION

Study and Discussion Groups

Study and discussion group programmes are most effective where there is a comfortable, informal atmosphere. A Community Centre equipped with some small comfortably furnished rooms will be a natural location for pleasant and effective group conversation.

There are almost an unlimited number of groups that might make use of the Community Centre for their educational activities, for example—

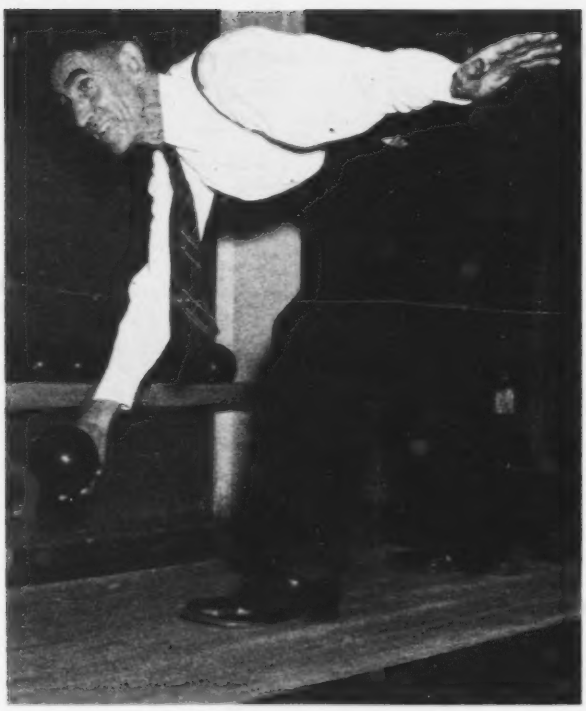
Dressmaking	Life saving
Home management	Vocational guidance
Interior decorating	Child psychology
Cooking classes	Public speaking
Canning classes	Debating clubs
Health lectures	Nature study clubs
Home nursing	Stamp clubs
First aid	Health clinics, etc.

A study group which is really alive will require three different types of material on any given subject. They will need attractive printed material, and supplement this with relevant radio programmes, and where possible, with films. This combination of forms of presentation will not only add to the interest of the group, but will also increase the effectiveness of the educational methods.

Finally the Community Centre will provide space, equipment, instruction and leadership for many members of these groups who may wish to develop their favourite hobbies or handicrafts or satisfy their social, recreational or cultural needs.

It may appear that some of the activities mentioned may seem beyond the resources of the average community. It should be remembered, however, that within the Province are people and agencies capable and willing to give instructions to groups that may desire to undertake activities involving technical skills. When planning your Centre interesting activities should not be ignored simply because there has not previously been opportunity for participation. Interested citizens with hopes and ambitions will create resourceful leadership.

GET THE BROOM



STRIKE COMING UP!

Appendices

APPENDIX I.

Bibliography

This may be useful to those who require more detailed information as to specific activities or programmes.

APPENDIX II.

Where to Obtain Further Information

A list of departments, agencies and organizations where further information as to particular subjects may be obtained.

APPENDIX III.

Standard Sports Dimensions Chart

On the chart will be found the standard dimensions of a variety of athletic fields, courts and pitches.

Published through the courtesy of the Ontario Athletic Commission.

APPENDIX IV.

Suggested Plan for a Community Centre Auditorium

The plan is not intended to do more than to illustrate ideas you may wish to incorporate in your auditorium. It is not a working drawing and you should have your own plan prepared by a competent architect with estimates of costs.

Unless otherwise acknowledged all photos through the courtesy of the National Film Board.

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Community Centres: By John P. Kidd, published by Canadian Council of Education for Citizenship, 166 Marlborough Avenue, Ottawa. 116 pages. 50¢. Also other publications.

Community Centres in Canada: By Adeney, Scott, Fyfe and Conrad; The Ryerson Press, Toronto.

Youth Centres: A survey by Federal Security Agency, Office of Community War Services, Washington, D.C. 34 pages.

Regional Library Service: By Elizabeth Dafoe, offprint from Queen's Quarterly, Vol. LII, No. 2. 12 pages.

Canada Needs Libraries: Reprint from Ontario Library Review, November, 1944, published by Canadian Library Council, c/o National Research Library, Ottawa. 45 pages.

The Auditorium and Stage in your Community Centre: By John A. Russell, published by The Western Canada Theatre Conference. 24 pages.

Arts and Our Town: A plan for a community cultural study, prepared for The Association of Junior Leagues of America, Inc., Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York 22, New York. 50 pages. 50¢.

Recreation—Fun for All: By Helen Watson, published by Department of Agriculture, Province of Manitoba. 72 pages.

Food for Thought: Published monthly by the Canadian Association for Adult Education, 198 College Street, Toronto. Also other publications.

Community Centres: The University of Manitoba Radio Talks, Series April, 1946.

Photo courtesy Associated Press

"SAFE"

Photo courtesy Associated Press

ACTION

WHERE TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION
APPENDIX II

Enquiries for further information on particular subjects or programmes might be addressed to the following:

Adult Education:

The Adult Education Office, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Art:

Manitoba Society of Artists, President, Mr. James G. MacGregor, 822 Banning St., Winnipeg. Secretary, Mr. A. P. Hunter, 195 Queenston St., Winnipeg.

Winnipeg School of Art, Principal, Mr. L. L. Fitzgerald, Old Law Courts, Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Art Gallery Association, President, Mr. John Parton, F.C.A., 86 Westgate, Winnipeg.

Mr. Alex J. Musgrove, D.A., Winnipeg Auditorium.

Winnipeg Sketch Club, President, Mr. A. O. Smith, 113 Cauchon St., Winnipeg.

Auditorium:

Department of Architecture, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Ballet:

Winnipeg Ballet Studios, Miss Gweneth Lloyd, 492½ Main St., Winnipeg.

Camera Clubs:

Manitoba Camera Club, Secretary, Mr. J. Fraser, 216 Campbell St., Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Cine Club, Secretary - Treasurer, Mr. W. R. Lawson, 264 Winterton Ave., East Kildonan.

Community Centres:

Joint Committee on Community Centres:
Chairman, Mr. Randolph Patton, 921 Palmerston Ave., Winnipeg.
Secretary, Miss Beatrice Brigden, 1175 Dominion St., Winnipeg.
Composed of Representatives of:
Federation of Canadian Artists,
Manitoba Society of Artists,
Adult Education Association,
Canadian Authors' Association,
Manitoba Architectural Association,
Manitoba Camera Club,
National Film Board,
Canadian Handicraft Guild,
Manitoba Library Association,
Local Council of Women,
Winnipeg Drama Society,
Winnipeg Ballet Club,
Men's Musical Club,
and Other Organizations.

Photo courtesy Winnipeg Tribune

GOOD TRY

Drama:

Manitoba Drama League, President, Mrs. A. O. Smith, 113 Cauchon St. Treasurer, Mrs. O. V. Jewitt, 579 Wardlaw Ave., Winnipeg.

Films:

National Film Board, Winnipeg.

Handicrafts:

Canadian Handicraft Guild, Mrs. H. E. Bergman, Director, 206 Paris Building, Winnipeg.

Incorporation:

Dept. of Provincial Secretary,
Legislative Building, Winnipeg.

Leadership Training:

Mr. D. Bruce Moorhead, Principal, Winnipeg Normal School.

Mr. H. M. Devenney, Director, Physical Fitness Division, Dept. of Health and Welfare.

Mr. Chas. Forsythe, Young Men's Christian Association, Winnipeg.

Mr. Peter Gordon White, Religious Education Council, Somerset Building, Winnipeg.

Libraries:

Provincial Librarian, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg.

Municipal Organization:

Department of Municipal Affairs, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg.

Museums:

Manitoba Museum Association, Civic Auditorium, Winnipeg.

Music:

Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association, President, Mr. Leonard Heaton, 30 Westgate, Winnipeg. Registrar, Mr. Russell Standing, 368 Home St., Winnipeg.

Men's Musical Club, President, Mr. George Mathieson, 909 McMillan Ave., Winnipeg. Secretary, Mr. Richard W. Cooke, 111 Douglas Park Road.

Physical Fitness:

Dept. of Health, Legislative Building, Winnipeg.

Plays: Theatre Division, Dept. of Adult Education, The University of Manitoba.

Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and Co-operation.

The Library, Broadway Building, The University of Manitoba.

Public Buildings:

Depts. of Public Works and Labor, Legislative Building.

Recreation:

Mr. Charles Barbour, Recreation Director, City of Winnipeg.

Rural Community Centres:

Mrs. J. Simmie, Free Press Prairie Farmer, Winnipeg.

Stage:

Professor J. A. Russell, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Study Groups:

The Adult Education Office, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Teen Canteens:

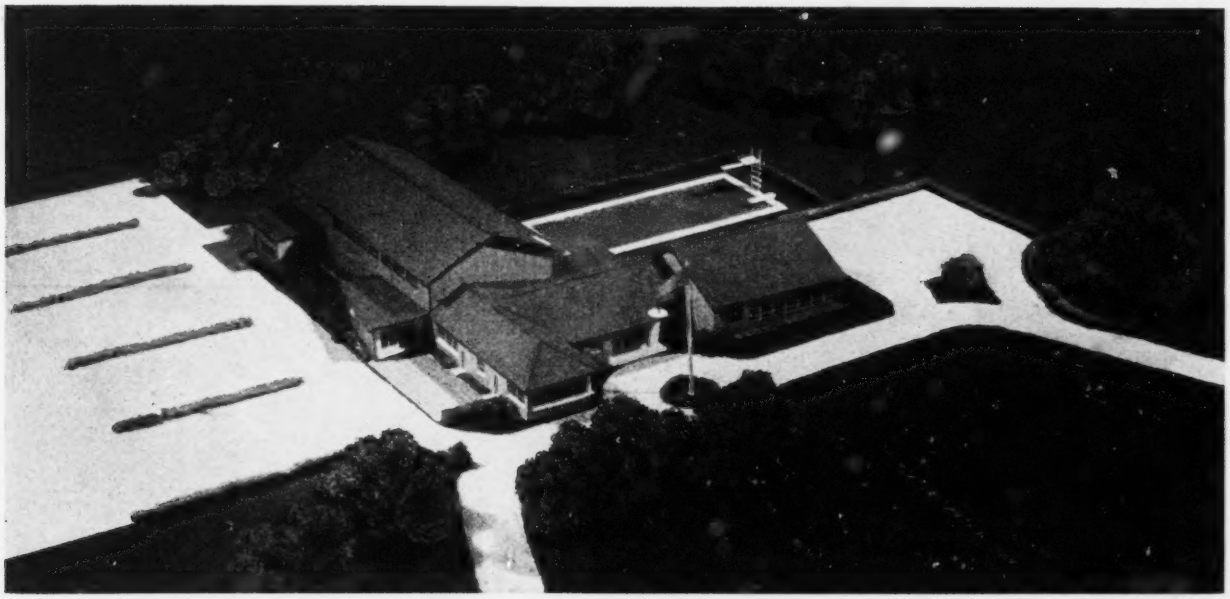
Mr. Ted Schrader, Winnipeg Tribune.

War Charities Act:

Department of National War Services, Ottawa.

Women's Activities:

Miss Frances I. McKay, Extension Branch, Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

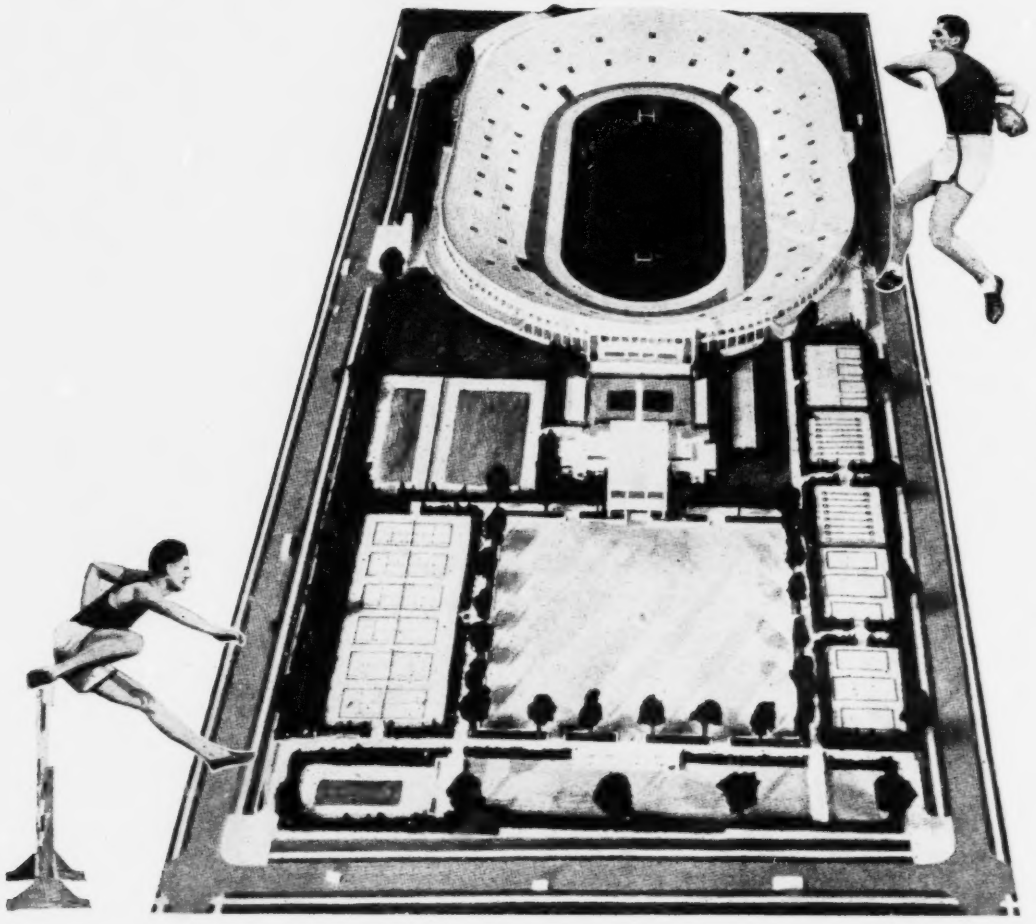


Courtesy Mr. Philip Casey

A COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUP

Photo courtesy Sterling Farmers' Union

NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS' UNION COMMUNITY HALL



Courtesy City of Winnipeg, and American Commission for Living War Memorials

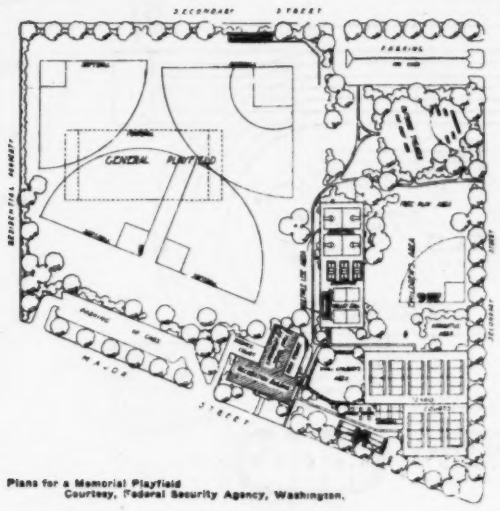
SUGGESTED PLAN FOR A MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTRE, WINNIPEG

The above Memorial Recreation Centre consists of a civic stadium, a large playing field and swimming facilities on a 22-acre site.

The stadium is a straight-side, bowl-type, concrete and steel structure, built around a running track of 21 feet wide, which in turn surrounds a regulation football gridiron. A bicycle track is provided in the 20-foot space between the running track and the first row of seats. The width of the field is 310 feet and its length 610 feet. The stands seat 45,000 people.

The playground plan shows a nearly square play area (265 feet by 298 feet) entirely surrounded by concrete curb. This area is one foot below the level of a ten-foot bituminous walk outside the curb. The entire area is available for informal group games and roller skating in the summer months. In winter it is flooded and used as a rink for skating. There are also six hard-surfaced tennis courts, five enclosed areas for basketball, handball, volley ball and horse-shoes as well as two enclosed game areas for small children.

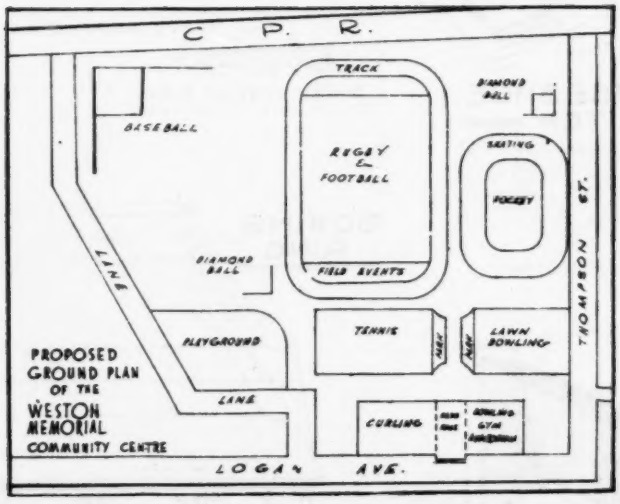
The swimming facilities consist of a large bathing pavilion surrounding by three pools. There is a 165-foot general pool, a 75-foot diving pool and a 135-foot wading pool. A large sand pit adjoins the wading pool. A 20-foot cement area is provided around the two principal pools as well as large "lounging area" between the pools.



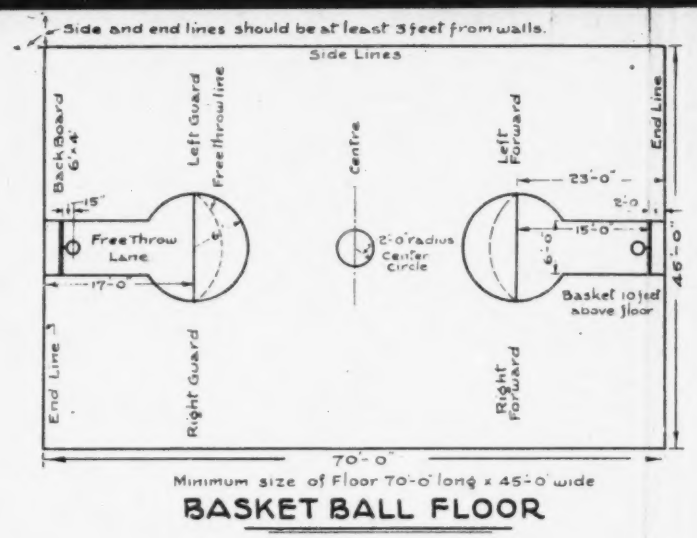
Plans for a Memorial Playfield
Courtesy, Federal Security Agency, Washington.

STANDARD SPORTS DIMENSIONS CHART

APPENDIX III

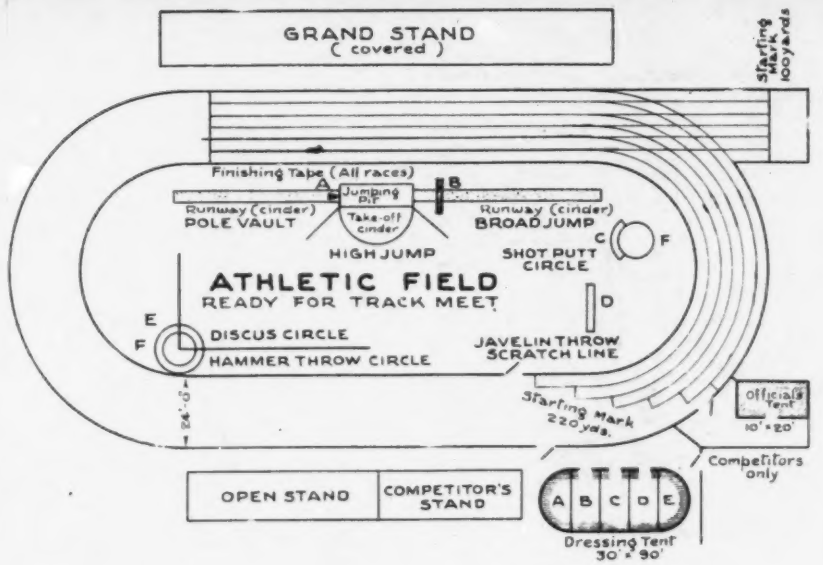


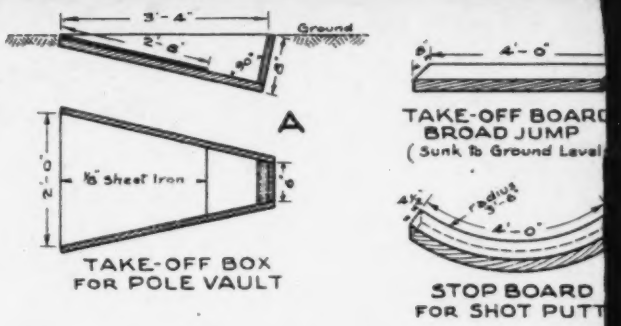
Sketch courtesy Manitoba Free Press



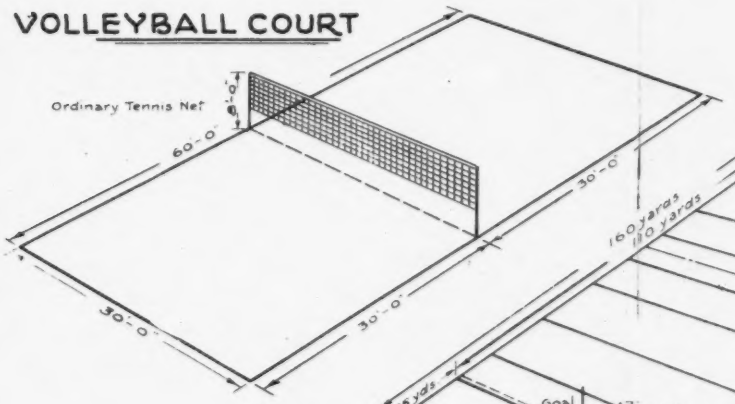
Minimum size of Floor 70'-0" long x 45'-0" wide

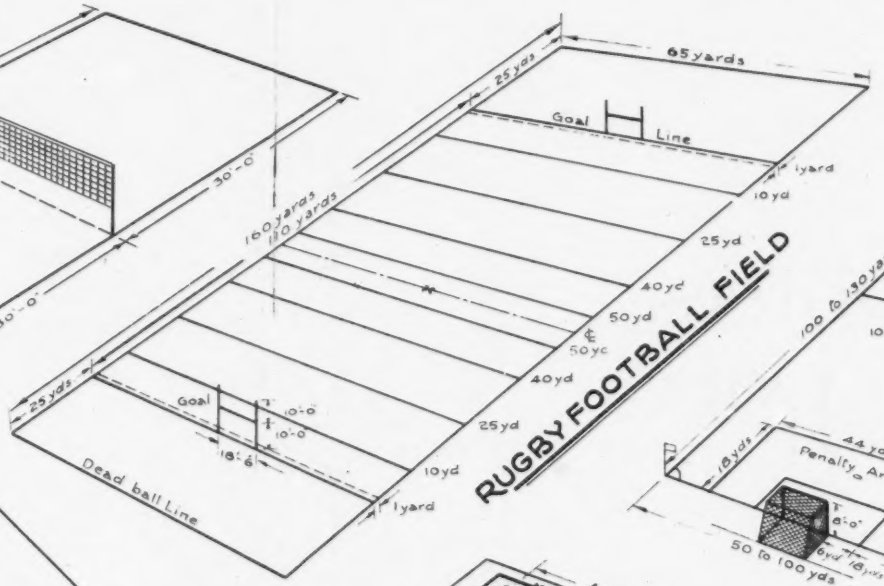
BASKET BALL FLOOR



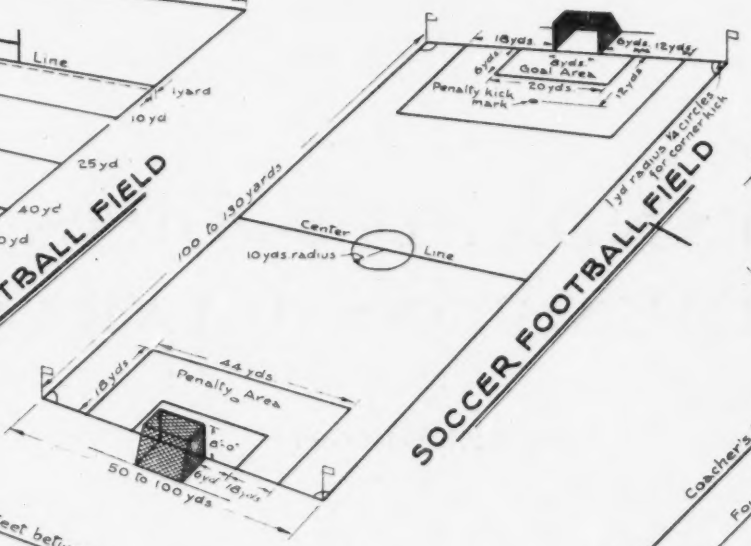


VOLLEYBALL COURT

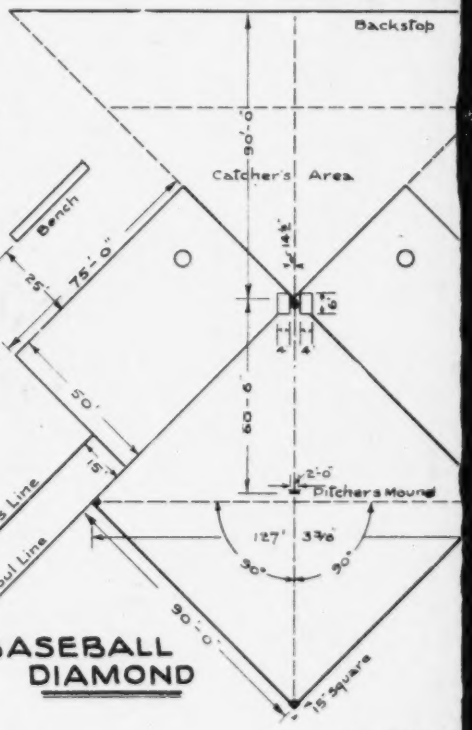




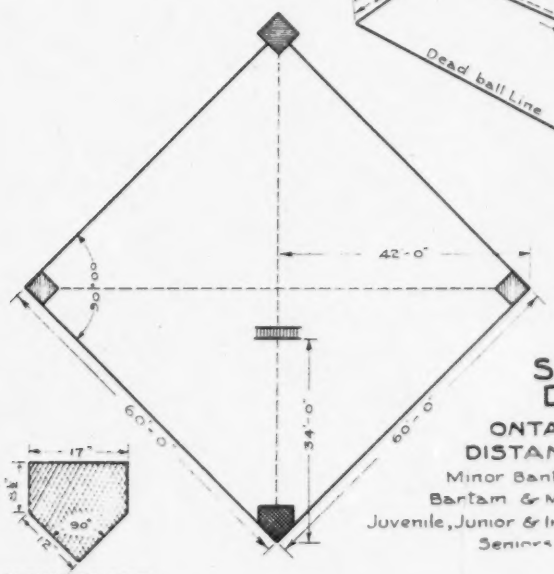
RUGBY FOOTBALL FIELD



SOCCER FOOTBALL FIELD



BASEBALL DIAMOND

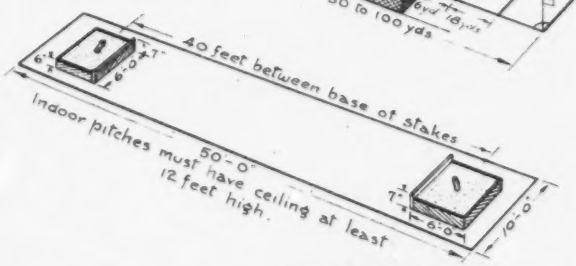


HOME PLATE

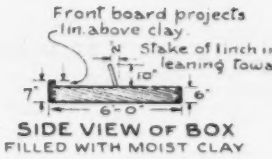
SOFTBALL DIAMOND

ONTARIO SOFTBALL DISTANCES FOR BASES

	BASES	PITCHER'S BOX
Minor Bantam	40 ft.	33 ft.
Bantam & Midget	45 "	35 "
Juvenile, Junior & Intermediate	50 "	38 "
Seniors	55 "	40 "

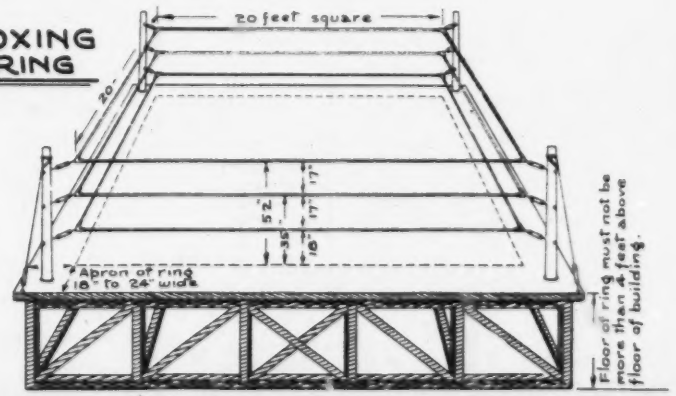


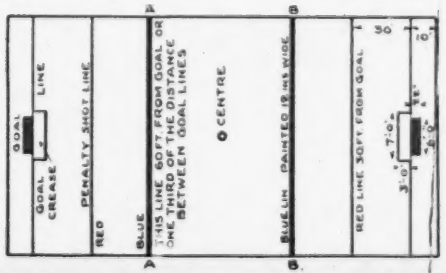
HORSE SHOE PITCH



SIDE VIEW OF BOX
FILLED WITH MOIST CLAY

BOXING RING



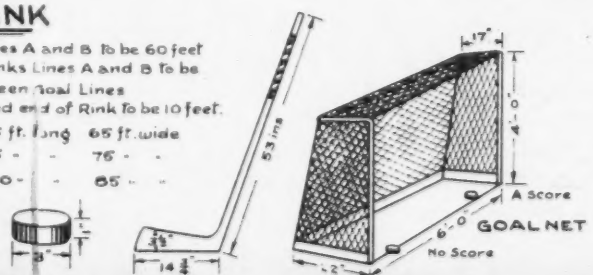


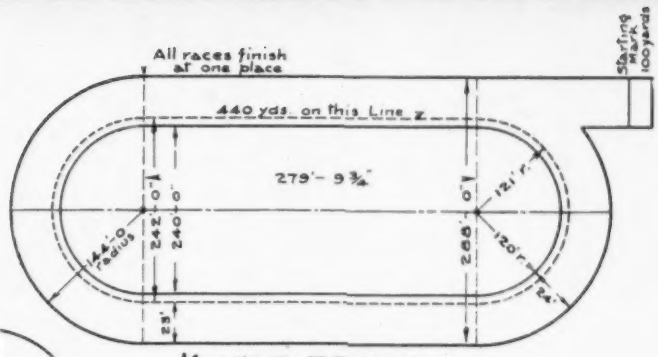
HOCKEY RINK

For Rinks 200 feet or over Lines A and B to be 60 feet from Goal Line, on smaller rinks Lines A and B to be one third the distance between Goal Lines
Distance between Goal Line and end of Rink to be 10 feet.

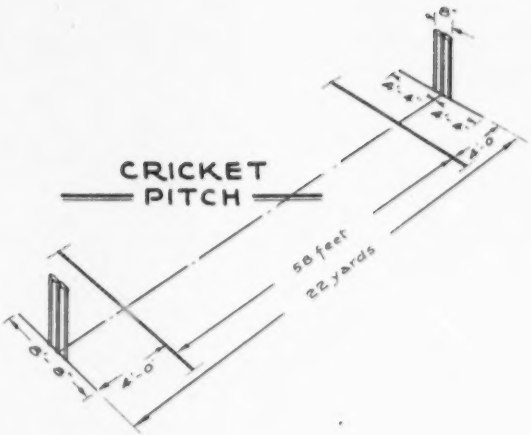
Minimum ice surface	165 ft. long	65 ft. wide
Suggested ice surface	175 " "	75 " "
Ideal ice surface	200 " "	85 " "

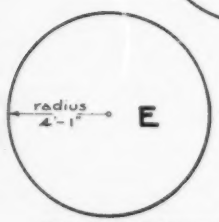
Weight of Puck 5½-6 oz.



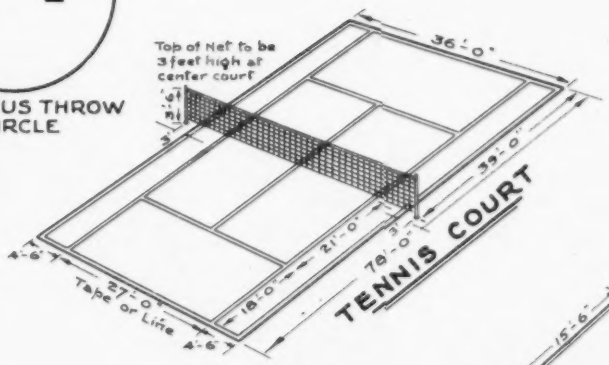


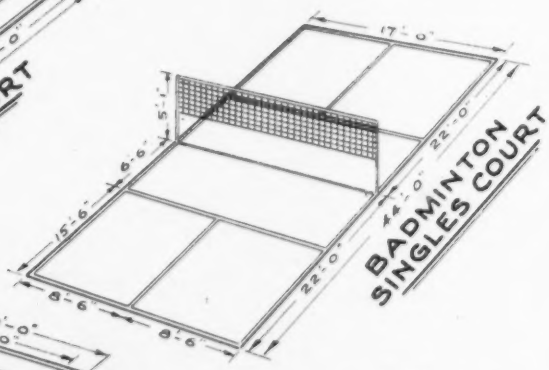
¼ MILE TRACK

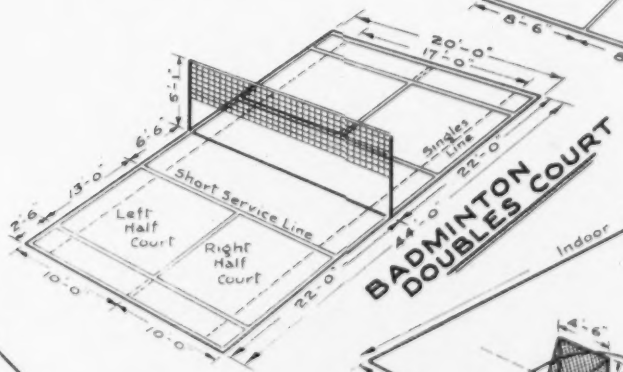


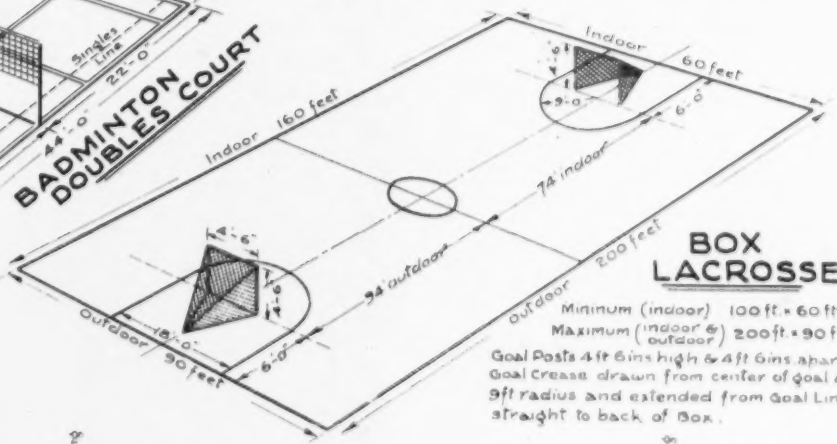


DISCUS THROW CIRCLE



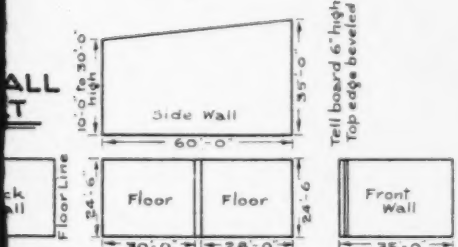


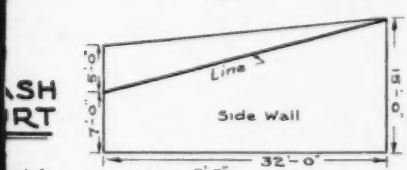


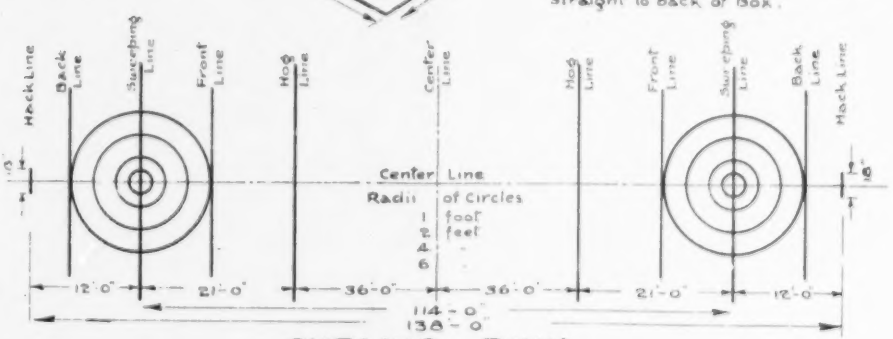


BOX LACROSSE

Minimum (indoor) 100 ft. × 60 ft
Maximum (indoor & outdoor) 200 ft × 90 ft
Goal Posts 4 ft 6 ins high & 4 ft 6 ins apart
Goal crease drawn from center of goal at 9 ft radius and extended from Goal Line straight to back of Box.







CURLING RINK

The above Standard Sports Dimensions Chart published through the courtesy of The Ontario Athletic Commission, gives the layout and dimensions of various playing fields, courts and pitches and a plan for an athletic field. Elsewhere in this booklet will be found sketches illustrating the grouping of recreational facilities.

FUTURE ARTISTS

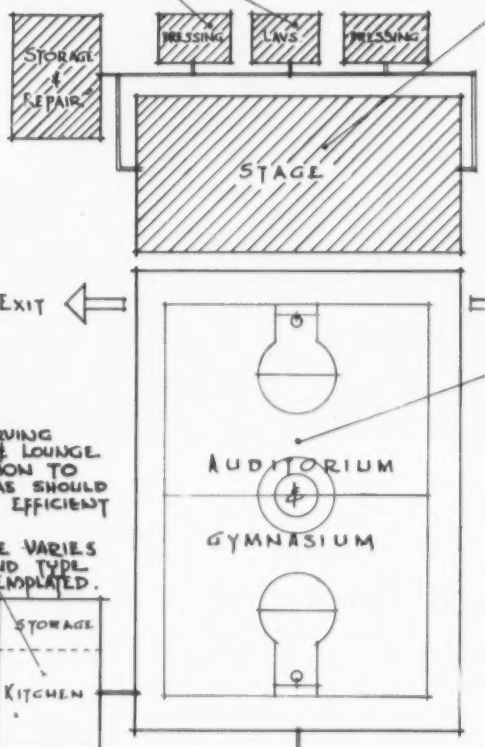
SUGGESTED PLAN FOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AUDITORIUM

APPENDIX IV

ONE OF THE OLDEST HANDICRAFTS

PHYSICAL FITNESS

NOTE: IF FULL BASEMENT UNDER AUDITORIUM DRESSING ROOMS & LAVS ETC. MIGHT BE PLACED THERE.



STAGE:
DEPENDS UPON EXTENT OF USE TO BE PUT TO.
THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES DEFINETLY DEMAND ADEQUATE FACILITIES SUCH AS AMPLE ACTING AREAS ITS WIDTH AT LEAST TWICE PROSCENIUM OPENING.
SUFFICIENT DEPTH FOR SCENIC EFFECT
CROSS OVER SPACE AT BACK.
GOOD DEPTH OF FORESTAGE IN FRONT OF PROSCENIUM FOR FLEXIBILITY. (THIS AN ADVANTAGE FOR SOLOISTS & LECTURES.)
ADEQUATE LIGHTING FACILITIES MUST BE PROVIDED.

THE AUDITORIUM:
COMBINATION OF FUNCTIONS OF AUDITORIUM, (TOWN MEETINGS, CONCERTS, THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES, LECTURES, DANCES, SUPPERS, ETC.) AND GYMNASIUM. (ATHLETIC & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, ETC.) WORKS WELL ENOUGH IN SMALL SCHEME.
DICTATES PROPORTION & SIZE OF HALL, BASKET BALL COURT REQUIREMENTS DETERMINE ITS SHAPE & PROPORTION & MINIMUM SIZE.
WIDTHS WILL VARY THEN BETWEEN 50'-0" & 60'-0"
LENGTHS " " " " 60'-0" & 95'-0"
AN ALLOWANCE OF SEVEN SQUARE FEET PER PERSON OF FLOOR INCLUSIVE OF AISLES WILL GIVE APPROX. SEATING ACCOMODATION WHEN HALL SERVES FUNCTION OF AUDITORIUM.

KITCHEN:
SMALL KITCHEN SERVING BOTH AUDITORIUM & LOUNGE. TRAFFIC CIRCULATION TO SUCH DINING AREAS SHOULD BE AS DIRECT AND EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE.
SIZE OF COURSE VARIES WITH QUANTITY AND TYPE OF MEALS CONTEMPLATED.

LOBBY
DISTRIBUTION AREA FOR TICKET HOLDERS TO AND SOCIAL AREA DURING INTERMISSIONS BEFORE AND AFTER PERFORMANCES SHOULD BE WELL LIGHTED FOR FULICTIONS SEPARATE FROM AUDITORIUM SUCH AS, CLUB ROOM, READING LOUNGE SITTING AREAS ASIDE FROM CIRCULATION TO HALL, ALSO USED FOR INFORMAL LECTURES

OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION SIZE DETERMINED BY PARTICULAR EXTENT OF ADMINISTRATION.

BOX OFFICE
CONTROL POINT

WEATHER VESTIBULE
INTEGRAL PART OF PLAN AND CONTROL POINT FOR TICKET SELLING
IN LARGER SCHEMES CONNECTION WITH LOBBY & CIRCULATION TO OTHERS ELEMENTS SUCH AS LIBRARY ETC.

LAVATORIES
MENS AND WOMENS TOILETS PREFERABLY OPENING OUT OF SMALL CORRIDOR LEADING FROM LOBBY.

COAT SPACE
AMPLE SPACE FOR SIZE OF AUDIENCES CONTEMPLATED ALSO SUFFICIENT LINE-UP SPACE IN LOBBY TO MAKE FOR SMOOTH OPERATION.

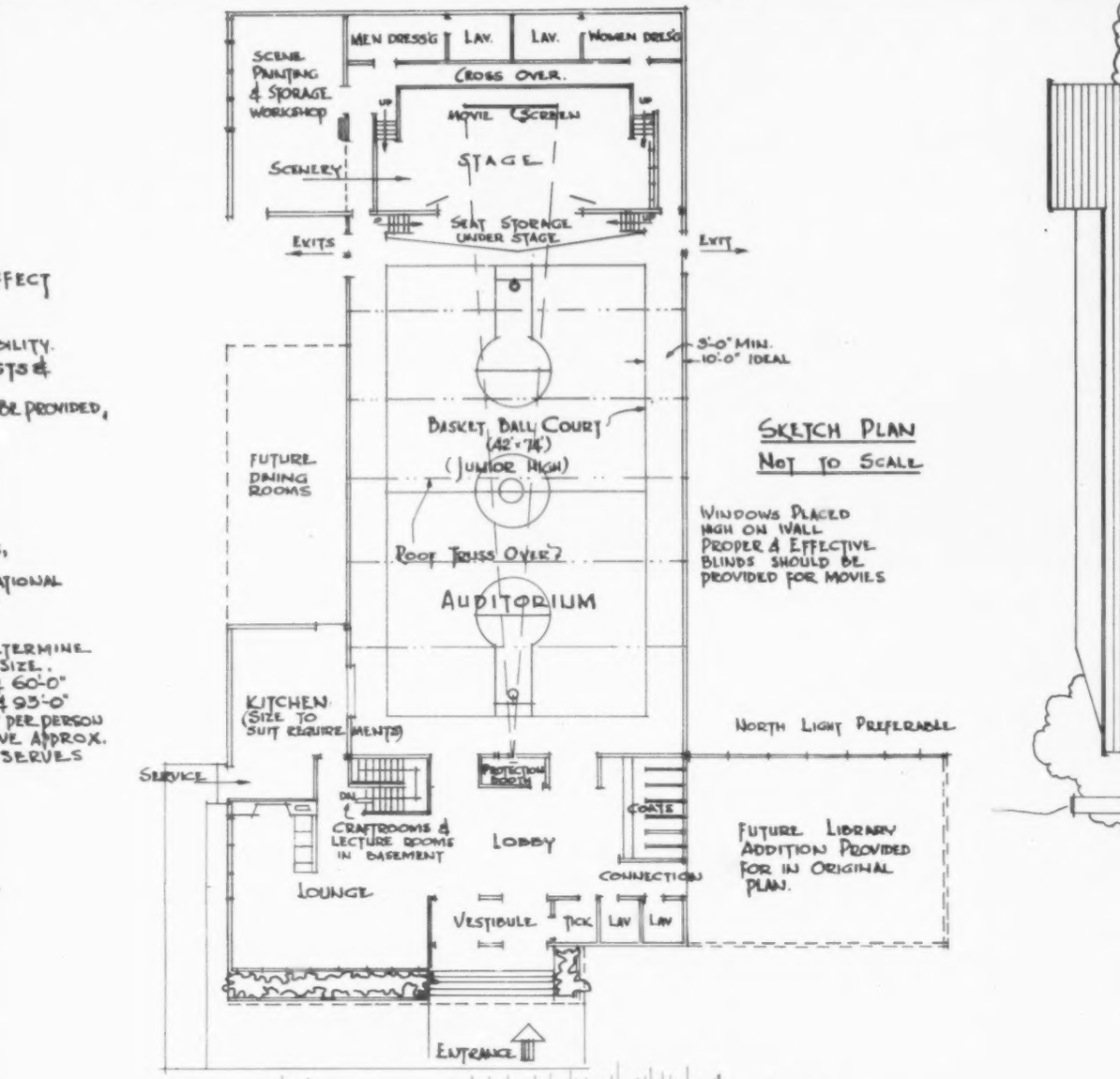
LOCAL SMALL EXIBITS AND DISPLAYS COULD BE SET UP IN SUCH AN AREA SO AS TO LEAVE AUDITORIUM HALL FREE FOR OTHER FUNCTIONS
POSSIBILITY OF HAVING LOBBY DIVIDED OFF TO FORM SMALL LIBRARY FOR USE AT TIMES WHEN HALL IS NOT IN USE.

BASEMENT FACILITIES
USE OF BASEMENT FOR CRAFT ROOMS LECTURE AND CLUB ROOMS ALSO BOILER & HEATING PLANT WOULD BE LOCATED HERE.
PART OR FULL BASEMENT POSSIBLE.

DIAGRAMATIC LAYOUT OF ELEMENTS FOUND IN SMALL COMMUNITY HALL

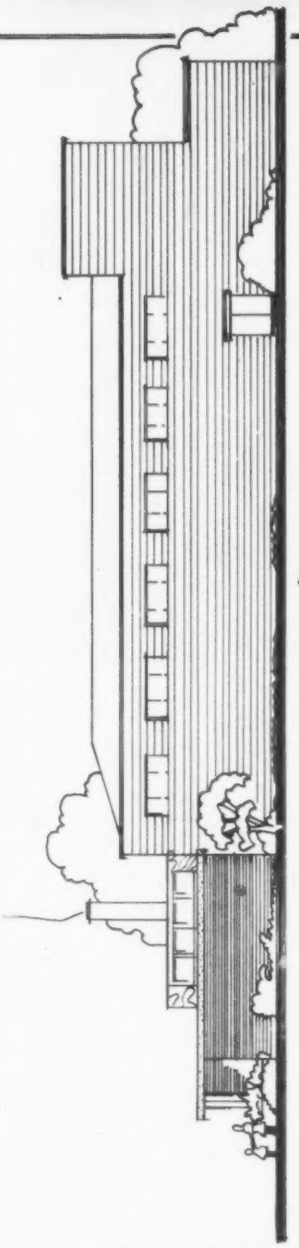
POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP OF DIFFERENT PARTS OF PLAN. THESE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITH BASIC PLAN BUT SHOULD BE SATISFIED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

NOTE: COMBINATION OF GYMNASIUM & AUDITORIUM IN ABOVE DIAGRAM AS MENTIONED ABOVE SERVES QUITE WELL FOR SMALL HALLS, BUT SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN LARGER SCHEMES (REQUIREMENTS IN SHAPE, PROPORTION, SIZE, TREATMENT OF FLOORS, WALLS, ETC., DEFINITELY ARGUE IN FAVOUR OF SEPARATE AREAS.)

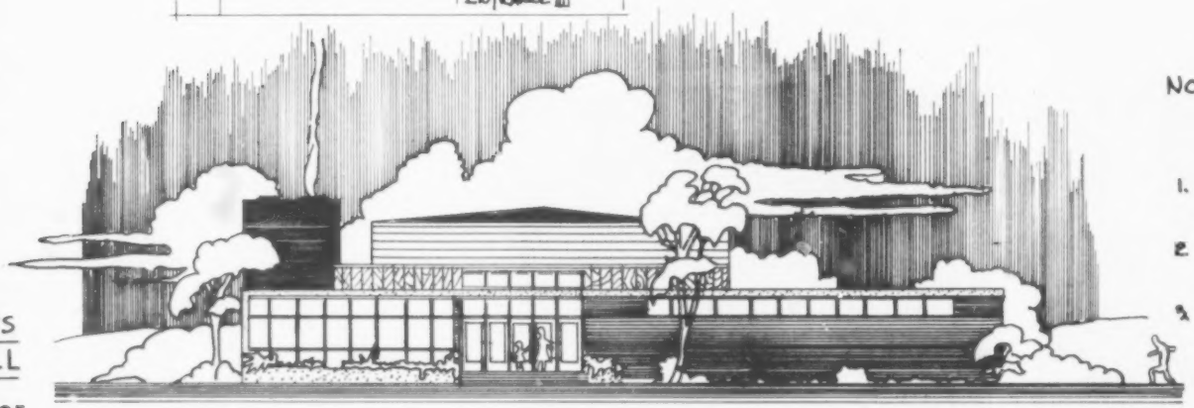


SKETCH PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

WINDOWS PLACED HIGH ON WALL PROPER & EFFECTIVE BLINDS SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR MOVIES



SIDE SKETCH ELEVATION



FRONT ELEVATION
NOT TO SCALE

THE ABOVE PLAN SHOWS POSSIBLE LAYOUT OF SMALL COMMUNITY CENTRE . . . .

THIS IS A SKETCH PLAN ONLY NOT A WORKING DRAWING AND SERVES TO EXPLAIN THE DIAGRAM SHOWN AT THE LEFT.

NOTE: FOR A SUCESSFUL COMMUNITY CENTRE, INITIAL PLANNING BASED ON THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT:

1. DEFINITE REQUIREMENTS OF COMMUNITY PLANNED - BUILDING SHOULD FULL FILL THESE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.
2. PLAN FOR FUTURE GROWTH OF BUILDING TO TAKE CARE OF FUTURE AS WELL AS PRESENT REQUIREMENTS.
3. CONSULT AN ARCHITECT AND EMPLOY HIM TO DESIGN AND SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A BUILDING

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

A GUIDE IN PLANNING YOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

NO INTENDED SUGGESTION THAT PLANS SHOWN HERE SHALL BE USED AS BLUEPRINTS FOR ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION, SINCE EACH COMMUNITY HAS SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.

Copies of this Booklet may be obtained from the Department of Municipal Affairs, Legislative Buildings, Winnipeg.

August, 1946.

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